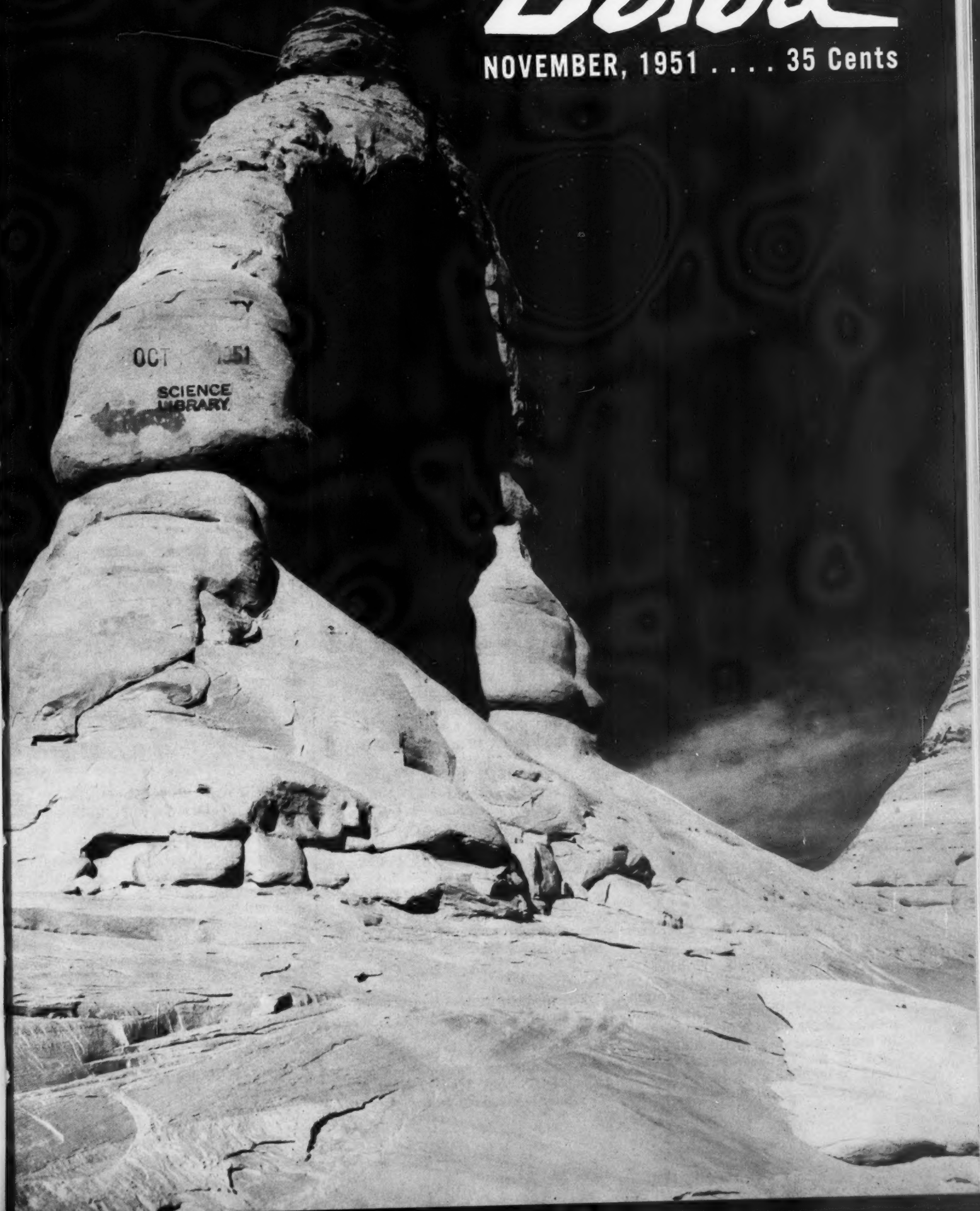


# Desert

NOVEMBER, 1951 . . . . 35 Cents



# LETTERS . . .

## Lost Gold—fact or fiction . . .

Prescott, Arizona

### Desert:

Two letters in your September issue interested me.

Lewis R. Wilcox complained that he was unable to find the landmarks given by your writer, John D. Mitchell, for the general location of the lost crater of gold described in your issue of last February.

This is not surprising. I have had the same experience. Perhaps that is why the mines are lost—even the landmarks are missing. Also, it may be true that some of the lost mine writers, when they run out of factual material introduce more or less fiction into their stories. They shouldn't do that, for it might lead to tragedy.

The second letter was from Sid R. Teeples, who wrote that he had found the Pegleg Smith lost mine and was going to sink a 10-foot shaft. I think he's on the wrong trail. There are no shafts involved in the Pegleg story—at least not in the story I have heard for the last 50 years. Very few of the modern versions of the lost Pegleg gold deal with the facts as the old-timers knew them.

I like good fiction—but I hate to see it published as truth.

ROBT. E. AMES

## All Is Peaceful at Bluff . . .

Bluff, Utah

### Desert:

No doubt you have read the much exaggerated reports regarding the "Indian uprising" at Bluff recently. According to some of the news dispatches the Navajos were on the warpath and the people in Bluff barricaded their homes. It is true nine carloads of state troopers were sent there—with guns. The truth is the Indians were not on the warpath and the townspeople were not frightened.

(Fr.) EUGENE BOTELHO

## Turtle Mountain Hospitality . . .

Colton, California

### Desert:

I just finished reading the article in the October Desert about W. H. Brown of Beatty, and his friendly attitude toward tourists. It brings to my mind another desert old-timer who deserves the same word of appreciation—Jesse Craik of the Lost Arch Inn in the Turtle Mountains south of Needles.

We made a camping trip tour of the

desert areas around the Colorado River from Davis Dam south to Blythe last Labor Day weekend. The weather was just right, the rains had made the whole country so green and pretty, in fact we were amazed to see a carpet of yellow wild flowers in many places. For September that is unusual.

We had the July 1948 copy of *Desert* along, telling of the Turtle Mountain rock collecting area, so drove over there for our first night's camp. And we received a most royal welcome from Mr. Craik, who gave us permission to camp at his "mansion" at the windmill where his water supply is, not far from the Inn.

The next morning we drove back to the Inn and spent an enjoyable hour listening to his tales of the desert, and history of the Turtles, as well as about the rocks to be found there. He was more than generous in giving us choice samples of rocks which he had collected, and he made us feel so much at home that we wished we had more time to spend there. Right now we are planning on going back as soon as we can.

Mr. Craik is truly a wonderful host, a one man chamber of commerce for the desert because he knows it from one end to the other.

MRS. AILEEN MCKINNEY

## John Got His Directions Mixed . . .

Pomona, California

### Desert:

We have just finished reading John D. Mitchell's lost mine story in your October issue.

And now we are wondering why the old prospector arrived in Amboy from the northeast if his mine was in the Sheep Hole Mountains, which are southeast. We would like to get this straight, for my husband and I are going out there for a few days and we may spend some time around the Sheep Holes.

MRS. E. N. NICKERSON

*We suspect that John D. Mitchell got his directions mixed—or was seeing a mirage. Actually the dry lake mentioned by Mitchell and the Sheep Hole Mountains are both southeast of Amboy. It is a lovely desert area, but rugged. Take plenty of water.—R. H.*

## When Money Came to Salome . . .

Palm Desert, California

### Desert:

Referring to Ralph Fair's letter in your October issue, he is right in one respect. The Shefflers did bring lots and lots of money into Salome. But it takes more than money to build a town. Dick Wick Hall brought fame to Salome—not with money, but with

a sense of humor that gave a nationwide circulation to the stories he wrote.

I lived in Salome in the old days when the Van Orsdel's provided accommodations for travelers who came that way. Addie Orsdel envisioned the kind of community Dick Wick Hall had sought to build, and kept alive the Hall traditions. Van's place was the common meeting place for hardrock miners, tourists, prospectors, geologists and veterans of every walk of life. They all found a hearty welcome and a warm handclasp at Van's.

Then big money took over—and the Salome of Dick Wick Hall, and the Van Orsdel's, died. Salome became just a place to eat and drink and hurry on. They commercialize the achievements of Dick Wick Hall—and do nothing to preserve the ideals for which Dick Wick lived and wrote.

LOIS ELDER ROY

## Giant Joshua . . .

Yucca Valley, California

### Desert:

Perhaps you will be interested in the discovery of what we believe is one of the largest Joshua trees on the California desert.

Four of us — Fred and Isabelle Ehlers, Guy Ohlen and the writer — found the tree high up in the Little San Bernardino Mountains in Joshua Tree National Monument recently. Storm water had washed out much of the trail up the wash and more than once we had to shovel out of the sand to reach the place.

The picture does not do justice to the tree. Actually it is nearly 20 feet in circumference at the ground, and 15 feet at its "slim" waistline. The diameter at the base is six feet.

Until some one reports a bigger tree, we will regard this one as the daddy of the Joshuas.

JUNE LeMERT PAXTON

## The Tragedy of Inflation . . .

Desert Center, California

### Desert:

Your magazine has many interesting stories—but there is one important subject you have not covered. Some of us who live on the desert and work for small wages would like to know how we can go about obtaining little cabins of our own.

It seems that it is no longer possible for a person earning less than \$100 a week to have a home of their own. Isn't there some way that a person could obtain a little cabin on which the payments would not be more than \$10 or \$15 a month?

THELMA G. SMITH

*Does anyone know the answer to that one?—R. H.*



## DESERT CALENDAR

October 29—Fall Round-up, Lancaster, California.

October 29-31 — Western Regional Conference AAA Motor Club, Phoenix, Arizona.

October 30-November 4—Fall Golf Tournament, Motor Car Dealers Association of Southern California, Thunderbird Ranch and Country Club, Palm Springs, California.

November 2-3—Arizona Bankers' Association convention, Tucson, Arizona.

November 2-3—Arizona State Teachers' convention, Tucson, Arizona.

November 3-4—Sierra Club Natural Science trip to Curtis Palms in the Indio hills. Star hike and campfire. Distance from Los Angeles about 250 miles.

November 3-12—Arizona State Fair, State Fair Grounds, Phoenix, Arizona.

November 4-7—Convention of California Association of County Assessors, Desert Inn, Palm Springs, California.

November 10-14 — Ogden Livestock show, Ogden, Utah.

November 12—Tesuque Pueblo, St. James' Day fiesta and Harvest Corn Dance, New Mexico, and Jemez pueblo.

November 12-13—Old Tucson Days, Tucson Mountain Park, Arizona.

November 12-14—First Annual Invitational Ladies' Golf Tournament, Thunderbird Ranch and Country Club, Palm Springs, California.

November 15-17—International Mining Days, El Paso, Texas.

November 16—Opening of Renaissance Art Display, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

November 17—International Soroptimist Conference, Desert Inn, Palm Springs, California.

November 18—El Conquistador Saddle Club Horse Show, Tucson, Arizona.

November 22-25—Southern California Chapter of the Sierra Club plans Thanksgiving at Furnace Creek camp ground.

November 23-25—Sierra Club's Desert Peaks Section field trip to Mount Picacho and Castle Dome, north of Yuma in Arizona. From Los Angeles about 650 miles.

November 24-25 — Phoenix Junior Rodeo, Phoenix, Arizona.

November — Following first frost, Navajo Reservation, Navajo "Yeibechi" and Fire Dance.

Late November or early December—Zuni Pueblo, "Shalako" ceremonies and House Dances.

Month of November — Exhibit of Peruvian Arts and paintings by Charles Packard illustrating primitive costumes of California Indians. Actual costumes will be on view. Southwest Museum, Highland Park, Los Angeles.



Volume 14

NOVEMBER, 1951

Number 13

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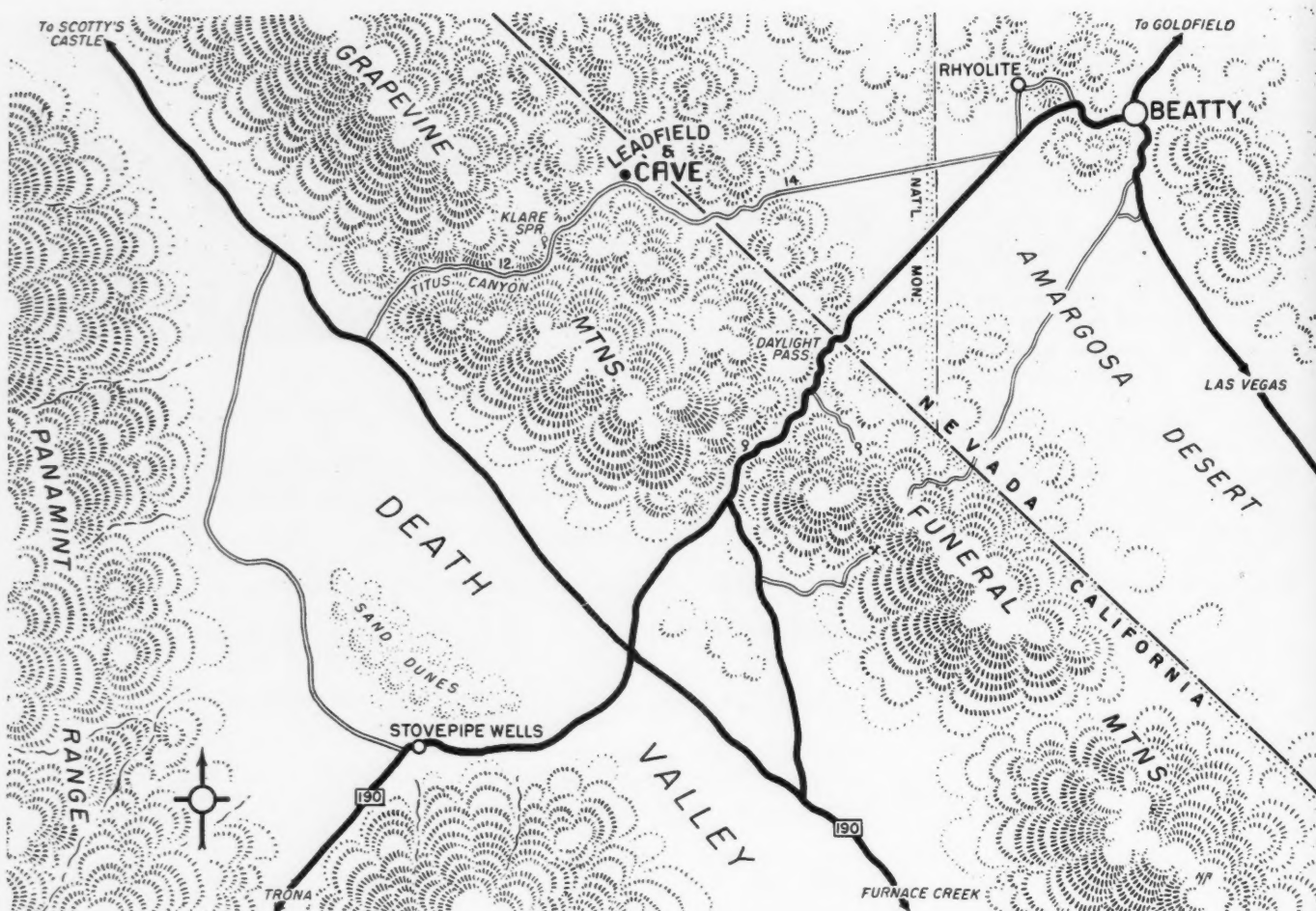
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# Cave of the Crystal 'Snowbanks'

By RICHARD F. LOGAN

Photographs by Walter S. Chamberlin

Map by Norton Allen

**I**N A REMOTE valley, hidden in the ragged mountains east of Death Valley, is a cave that is quite unlike the usual run of caves. For it is decorated, not with the ordinary stalactites, stalagmites, and their associates, but with fragile, glistening crystals that gleam like frost in the rays of headlamps.

Dawn of the day following Thanksgiving found us — Estelle, my wife, Sandy and Jan, our young daughters, Jack Wilbur, a teen-age friend from Calabasas, and myself—crossing Death Valley and taking the Daylight Pass road toward Rhyolite. We had come

to participate in the exploration of this extraordinary cavern.

The sun was just rising as we turned off the highway onto the little-used Titus Canyon road. With its long rays bathing the colorful hills ahead, we drove up the long slope of an alluvial fan and into the shallow valleys of the dissected hills above. Crossing a ridge crest, we looked across a small valley and saw the road beyond, incised narrowly and steeply into the mountain-side.

Ten minutes later we looked through the slot-like pass at the top of the grade—and shuddered. The mountain-

side pitched down at a frightening angle, and it seemed unbelievable that a road fit to travel could exist there. Below lay a small basin-like valley surrounded by brilliantly - colored mountains, dotted with disintegrating buildings, scarred with tailings, and pockmarked with mines and prospect holes—the old mining camp of Leadfield, California. Today, Leadfield is a ghost town.

Old-timers in Southern California will recall the days when C. C. Julian was buying big space in Los Angeles newspapers to promote the sale of stock in a "fabulously rich" mine near the California-Nevada border. The mine was lacking in pay ore, and the promoter met a tragic end after a fortune had been invested in his worthless stocks. But while Julian's hard rock miners failed to find ore in paying quantities, they did encounter a great subterranean cavern of amazing beauty. Recently this cave, now under the custody of the National Park Service, was re-opened for exploration—and here is the story of what was found.

Today, Leadfield is a ghost town.





*As the explorers cast their lights about the cavern the walls sparkled with millions of tiny aragonite crystals.*



*The party of explorers camped amid the crumbling buildings near the tailings dump of the old mine at Leadville.*

bristling with fascicles of aragonite crystals. Elsewhere, the strange warped or curved stalactitic forms known as helictites had developed.

During the first day on the site, we had a visit from Chief Ranger E. E. Ogston of Death Valley National Monument, who made a lengthy trip through the cave, accompanied by several expedition members. On the second day, Park Naturalist L. Floyd Keller visited the cave, and Ranger Lewis Kirk brought his wife and children up to camp overnight with our party.

During the second day, Don Emerson of Monrovia and Bill Brown of Pasadena spent hours patiently chipping away at the ceiling of the tunnel to get firm holds for the door supports, cementing the uprights in place, and welding the door to them. Eventually, a padlock was put in place, and when the last spelunker was out, the lock

was snapped and the key turned over to the National Park Service.

We set off in mid-afternoon of the second day on the trip back to paved roads and civilization, following a route down Titus Canyon.

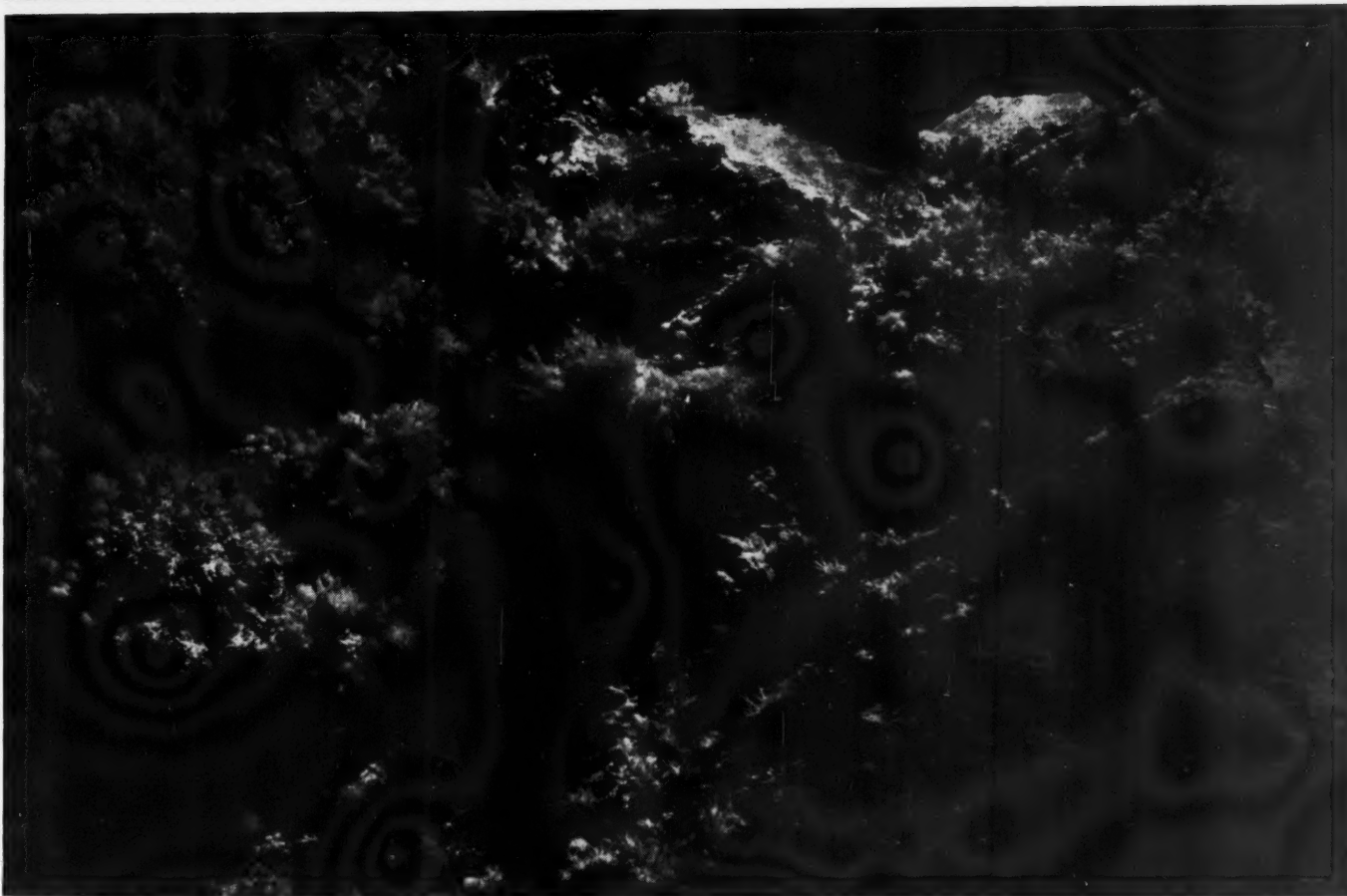
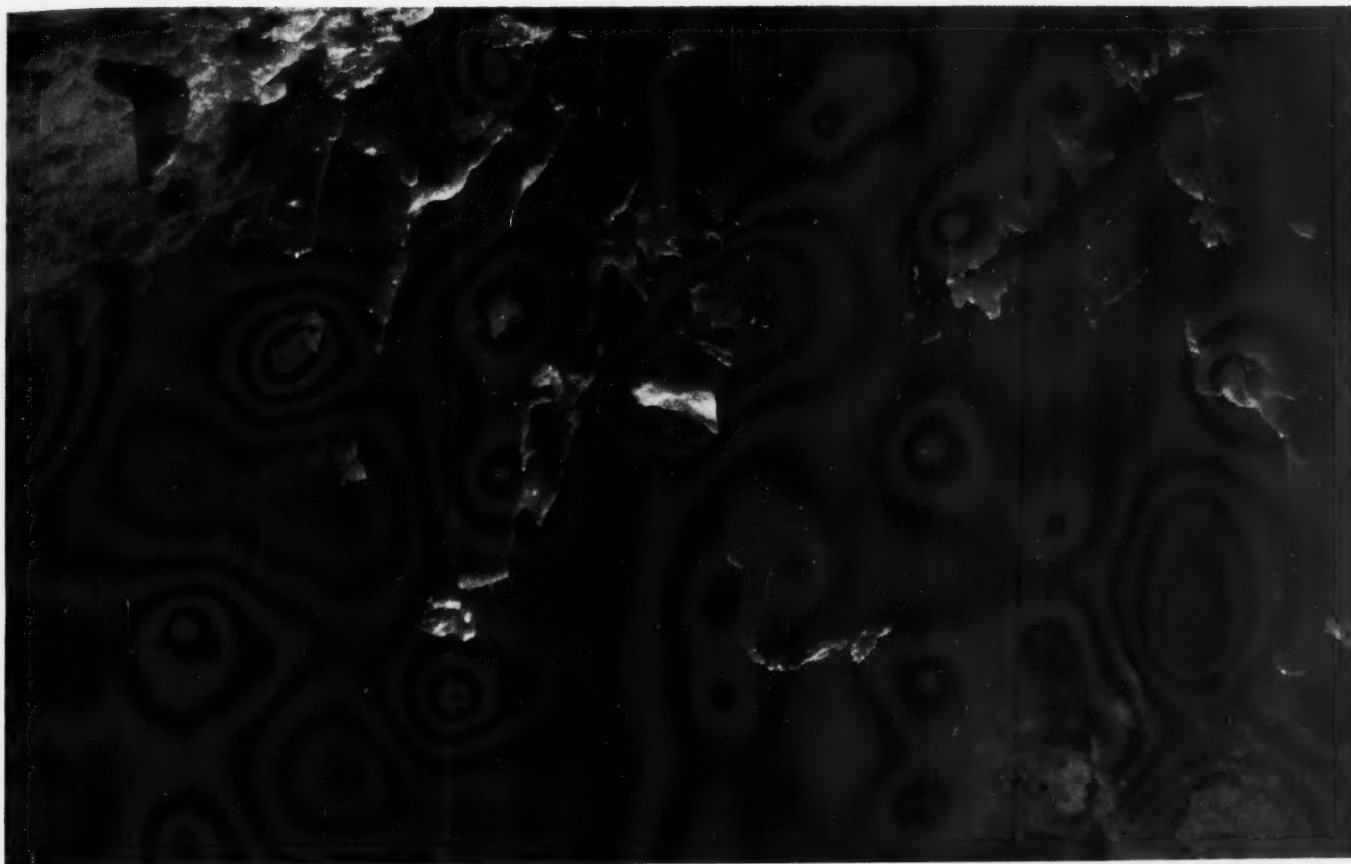
A quarter-mile below camp a pair of vertical walls—looking very much like theatre wings—rose from the valley floor. Between them the dry stream channel made its way with a pair of reverse curves. Following the tracks of those who had gone before, we nosed into the stream bed, and for miles rolled over crunching gravel and through the deep sand of the stream, under walls that became higher and higher.

About two miles below Leadfield, a fine stream of water flowed down the road from a clump of reeds and tamarisks. This was Klare Spring, where we had been told to look for petroglyphs. And there they were, just

east of the spring—wavy lines, mountain sheep, snakes, chisled into the hard rock of the canyon wall by some aboriginal priest or doodler. This spring was the nearest large supply for the Leadfield camp. A family was camped by the spring.

The turns became sharper, the canyon narrower, the walls higher. Less and less often we saw the sun on the cliffs above — and we wondered whether we would be out by dark. Then through a narrow V ahead, we saw the brilliant western sky. With every foot of advance, the V widened, and then suddenly, we were out on the apex of a great alluvial fan. All of Death Valley was spread out before us, bathed in the last rays of the sinking sun. As we watched, the great black shadow of the Panamints crept across the valley floor, the sun sank behind the jagged ranges — and the trip was over.





*Above—Stalactites are not common in this cave, and most of them are mis-shapen and encrusted with aragonite crystals.*

*Below—the commonest form of the aragonite found in the cave were these radiating clusters of needle-like crystals.*

During the 1925-26 operations, one of the groups of mines on the west wall of the valley had intercepted the cave. After the demise of the town, professional mineral collectors had raided it, removing large quantities of specimens from its walls and ceilings. The area came under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service with the creation of Death Valley National Monument in 1933. In 1940, to halt vandalism, and to protect unwary wanderers, the cave was sealed off with masonry by Park Service employees.

Now, a decade later, the National Speleological Society was cooperating with Superintendent T. R. Goodwin of the National Monument in installing a door in place of the masonry, and at the same time exploring and photographing the interior.

Entrance to the mine was through two horizontal tunnels, one about 100 feet above the other. Our exploring party was divided into two sections, one for each tunnel. Stan Kahan of Los Angeles City College led the exploration of the upper tunnel. About 100 feet from the entrance the upper passage ended in a vertical shaft. The group climbed down two short lengths of old ladder and then had to resort to ropes to continue the descent. They worked down this old shaft to where it intercepted the lower tunnel—and were greeted there by the exploring section which had entered the lower tunnel.

Over a walkie-talkie, the news that the two parties had joined was relayed to Ed Simmons and Walt Chamberlin of Pasadena. They were operating

short-wave station W6CLW in Walt's converted navy ambulance, which served as the expedition's headquarters.

From here on, the second party, headed by Al Hildinger of Los Angeles City College, took the lead. With ropes, wire-rope ladders, carbide lamps and other equipment, they made the descent of the cave shaft that dropped steeply from the floor of the lower tunnel. The main part of the cavern, they found, lay entirely below the level of this tunnel. Over the route they scouted out, 50 persons made the trip through the cave in the next 24 hours.

By descending a steep shaft on a wire-rope ladder, squeezing through a narrow tilted slot, and belly-crawling through a constricted, tube-like passage, we emerged into a large sloping room. Down its steep, mud-covered floor, footholds had been chopped, probably by the professional collectors of an earlier day.

Up to this point the cave had been uninteresting—a mud-floored aperture in solid rock. But here suddenly, one entered a Winter Wonderland. On all sides, the rays from the headlamps disclosed great areas of walls coated with crystals, sparkling in pristine whiteness. Everywhere one looked, pin-points of light shone back from great banks of "snow" seemingly drifted into every nook and cranny of the cave. Inspection showed them to be radiating crystals of aragonite, often attached to the wall merely by a single, thin-shafted needle. Many were so fine and sharp that they penetrated the skin of unwary spelunkers who unwittingly leaned against them, causing irritation similar

to that resulting from the careless handling of rock-wool insulation.

At the foot of the steep slope, the cave opened up into a series of interconnecting chambers, up to 30 feet in length, and 15 in width, with ceilings 10 feet above the floor. Everywhere the walls and ceilings were radiant with clear white crystals.

But despite the frosty appearance, the heat and humidity were oppressive. The temperature was 70 degrees, with a relative humidity of 95 percent. The exertion of climbing, crawling and squeezing through narrow passages made one perspire freely, and in the humid air perspiration would not evaporate, but remained annoyingly on the skin. Even the walls seemed to perspire, for on the ends of many of the millions of crystals, tiny drops of water glistened.

Most of the usual cave formations were scarce or lacking. Only in one place were stalactites, stalagmites flowstone and drapery found. The stumps of a few stalactites showed where specimens had been removed by collectors before the sealing of the cave. Apparently, this lack of normal formations is the result of the absence of running or dripping water since the excavation of the cavern had ceased.

The cave itself appeared to have been formed in the usual manner by the solution of limestone by ground water. The solution took place along beds of the dark-gray, medium-grained Pogonip (Ordovician) limestone which occurs in a long north-south belt through the Grapevine Mountains, as well as at other scattered locations in the general area east of Death Valley.

Since there is insufficient ground water in the area today to accomplish, even over a very long period, the removal in solution of enough limestone to form the cave, it seems likely that it was formed during the Pleistocene. That period, synonymous with the Ice Age in more poleward and more humid areas, was one of heavier rainfall in the western deserts. Many of the present arid basins were partially occupied by lakes, in whose waters lived clams and fish. Death Valley itself was partly inundated by the waters of prehistoric Lake Manly.

Following the termination of the Pleistocene, the amount of ground water diminished to its present state of scarcity. Consequently, the bulk of the existing formations, stalactites and stalagmites, probably was formed during the period of excavation; although at especially-favored locations where strong jointing admits a weak flow of seepage, growth of such formations still continues in a limited manner.

Many of the stalactites had surfaces

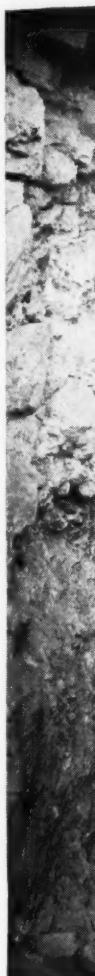
## The Desert in Full Color...

Yes, Desert Magazine's cover is different—and more colorful—this month. The cover picture — of Delicate Arch in the Arches National Monument in Utah—is printed in full natural color. The 4x5 Kodachrome picture from which the cover plates were made was taken by Josef Muench of Santa Barbara, California. The printing was done in Desert's publishing plant at Palm Desert.

The use of desert scenes in full color has been the dream of Desert Magazine's staff for years — and we are glad that added printing facilities at our publishing plant have made it possible to present the first of these natural desert scenes in this issue—our 14th anniversary.

For our December magazine another beautiful Kodachrome picture already is in the engraving process. The December cover will be another Muench picture taken in Death Valley in winter—with the snow-capped high Sierras in the background.

For January, February, March and the months that follow there will be more desert in full color. We hope the growth of our circulation in the years ahead will justify the use of many additional pages in color—for this desert land is a place of exquisite coloring.



To predators, access to the cave was in constant danger.

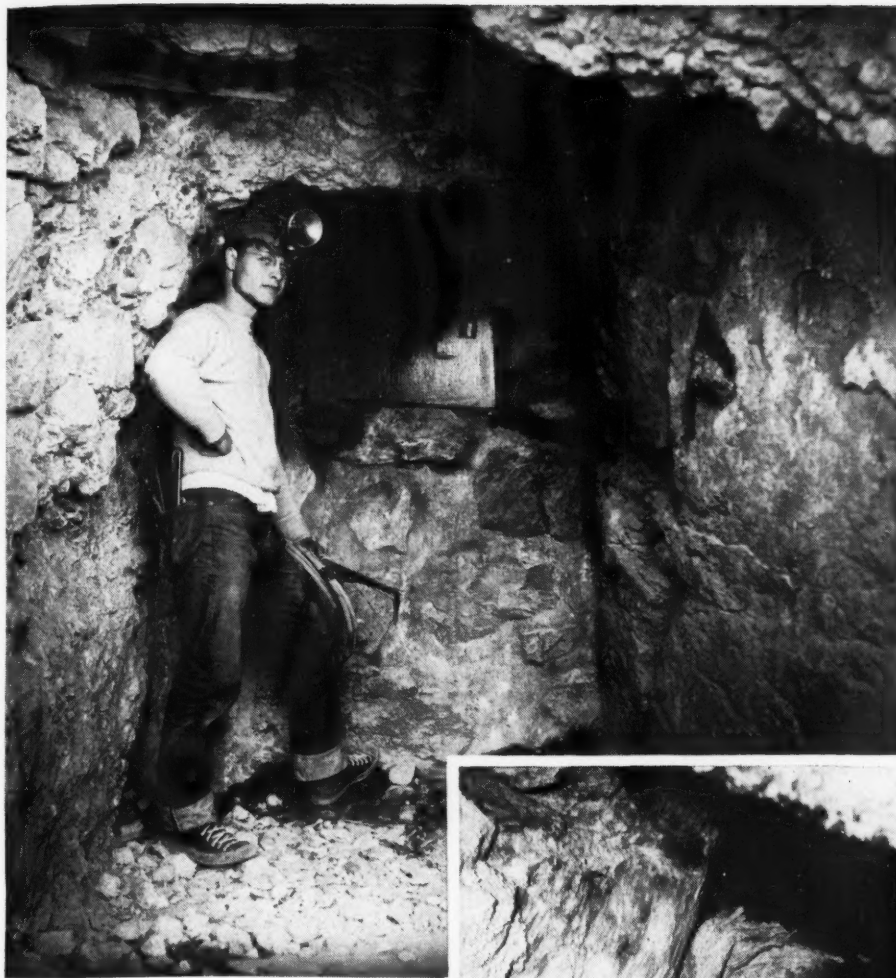
But it was not the only reason for the cave's closure.

Lead covered the cave's entrance, and the cave was closed to the public. The cave was closed to the public for a dozen years, but it was not until the late 1940s that the cave was reopened.

During the 1920s, the cave was closed to the public. The cave was closed to the public for a dozen years, but it was not until the late 1940s that the cave was reopened.

During the 1920s, the cave was closed to the public. The cave was closed to the public for a dozen years, but it was not until the late 1940s that the cave was reopened.





*To prevent vandalism and accidents, and yet make authorized access possible, Bill Brown of Pasadena welded a door in place at the mine entrance. The key is in custody of the National Park Service in Death Valley.*

But it once was a thriving town, basking in the brief flare of fame and fortune of a boom mining town.

Lead and silver ore had been discovered here in the Grapevine Mountains as early as 1905, when Barney McCann and Bill Seaman had filed a dozen claims. Some ore was sorted but it proved too low-grade to warrant shipping out by packtrain—for there was no road then.

During March, 1924, Ben Chambers, and F. J. Metz located 16 claims, which were taken over in July, 1925, by C. C. Julian's Western Lead Mines company. At a cost of \$60,000, the road had been carved into the moun-

*During the exploration Ed Simmons of Pasadena kept contact with the expedition's truck by short-wave radio.*



tains, permitting access from the mining centers of Rhyolite and Beatty.

It was essentially a waterless town that grew up at the site of the mines. A spring of sorts a quarter-mile east provided some water; but most of the supply had to be hauled up a nine-hundred foot grade from a spring down canyon. So it was not surprising that when the mining boom collapsed the next year the result of wildcat promotion and lack of ore, the place became a ghost town.

As we drove carefully down the grade that day we could see that ghosts had company. A half-hundred persons were crawling out of sleeping bags and cooking their breakfasts over open fires. They were members and guests of the Southern California Grotto of National Speleological Society, a nationwide organization devoted to the study and exploration of caves, and they were there to open, explore and close this unusual cave.



*Looking down 3000 feet over the region where the \$300,000 buried treasure is supposed to be hidden. Taken from 8020-foot Silver Peak in Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains, Harris Mountain is prominent to the right with San Simon Valley and the Mountains of New Mexico on the horizon beyond.*

# Buried Treasure of the Chiricahuas

By WELDON HEALD

Photographs by the Author

Map by Norton Allen

**T**HE BURIED Treasure of the Chiricahuas isn't merely an old-timer's tall tale. It is authentic, twice-stolen plunder from Old Mexico, and it left a trail of blood and sudden death across hundreds of miles of empty deserts and barren mountains. Many points in the story are known facts and there is evidence that the treasure exists. A dying bandit who

helped hijack a pack train of Mexican smugglers even left a partial inventory of the loot. There was, he said, a cigar box full of diamonds worth a million dollars, stolen from a bank vault in Monterey, Mexico. There were 39 bars of gold bullion valued at \$600,000, and scores of silver ingots cast in Mexico, 90,000 Mexican gold dollars, and countless sacks of gold

One of the most persistent among the lost treasure stories of the Southwest is the tale of a fortune in silver, gold and diamonds said to be cached somewhere in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona—smuggler's loot which was hijacked, then buried and lost. Weldon Heald has followed every clue which seemed to have a bearing on the authenticity of the treasure—and here is the tale as he has pieced it together.

and silver coins. Most interesting, but hardest to believe, the bandit listed two life-sized statues of pure gold—one of the Savior and the other the Virgin Mary—which once occupied sanctuary niches in a great Mexican cathedral.

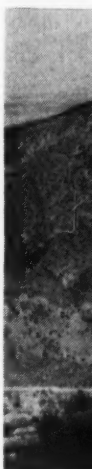
The story starts in 1881 at Galeyville on East Turkey Creek in the heart of the Chiricahua mountains of Ari-

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zona. White-faced Herefords now graze belly-deep in the lush summer grass on the site of Galeville, but in its heyday the town was the unsavory hangout of Tombstone's badmen. Probably never before nor since has such a trigger-happy crew of holdup men, gun-fighters, rustlers, crooked gamblers, and cutthroats been gathered together in one place. Rulers of this robbers' roost were Curley Bill Brocius and his dark, handsome lieutenant, John Ringo.

Although primarily a cattle rustler, Curley Bill, followed by his private army of 40 to 100 bully-boys, had numerous ways of augmenting his income without working for it. One of his favorite methods was to waylay Mexican smugglers en route to Tucson. Curley Bill's richest haul of smugglers' pelf was made in July, 1881 at the Devil's Kitchen in the rocky depths of Skeleton Canyon, near the New Mexico line. That time the bandits split \$75,000 in silver over the dead bodies of slaughtered mules and hapless Mexicans. It is told that they spent every cent of it in four weeks at the bars and on the gambling tables of Gayleyville.

Soon afterward word came across the border via Curly Bill's grapevine that Mexican smugglers planned to bring in a cargo which far surpassed in value anything they had handled before. Curly Bill's eyes must have gleamed and his fingers itched, for he immediately dispatched henchman Jim Hughes to Sonora to scout out the land and get the details. Hughes, a swarthy half-Mexican who spoke Spanish like a native, quickly made friends in Mexico by damning everything gringo from the Constitution to Curly Bill himself. Here, thought the Mexi-

cans, as they toasted him in tequila, was *un hombre muy simpatico*.

A good many tequilas later Hughes learned from the smugglers that they planned to pass through Skeleton Canyon and the San Simon Valley in August, following practically the same route as the last ill-starred pack train. Bursting with the big news, he hurried back to Gayleyville to report to his chief. But Curly Bill wasn't there and nobody knew when he would return.

There was no time to lose, so Jim Hughes decided to pull a magnificent double-cross and do the job himself. Swing Hunt, a mule-skinner who aspired to higher things, and a 19-year-old embryo desperado named Billy Grounds joined Hughes. He persuaded five other prominent citizens of Gayleyville to take part. He swore them to secrecy. Then one starry August night the eight of them stealthily rode out of the Chiricahuas and headed southeast across San Simon Valley to Skeleton Canyon.

Next morning the Mexican pack train, with 15 men and twice as many mules, came winding up the trail over the Peloncillo Mountains and down into the canyon. Swinging on the mules' backs was perhaps the richest

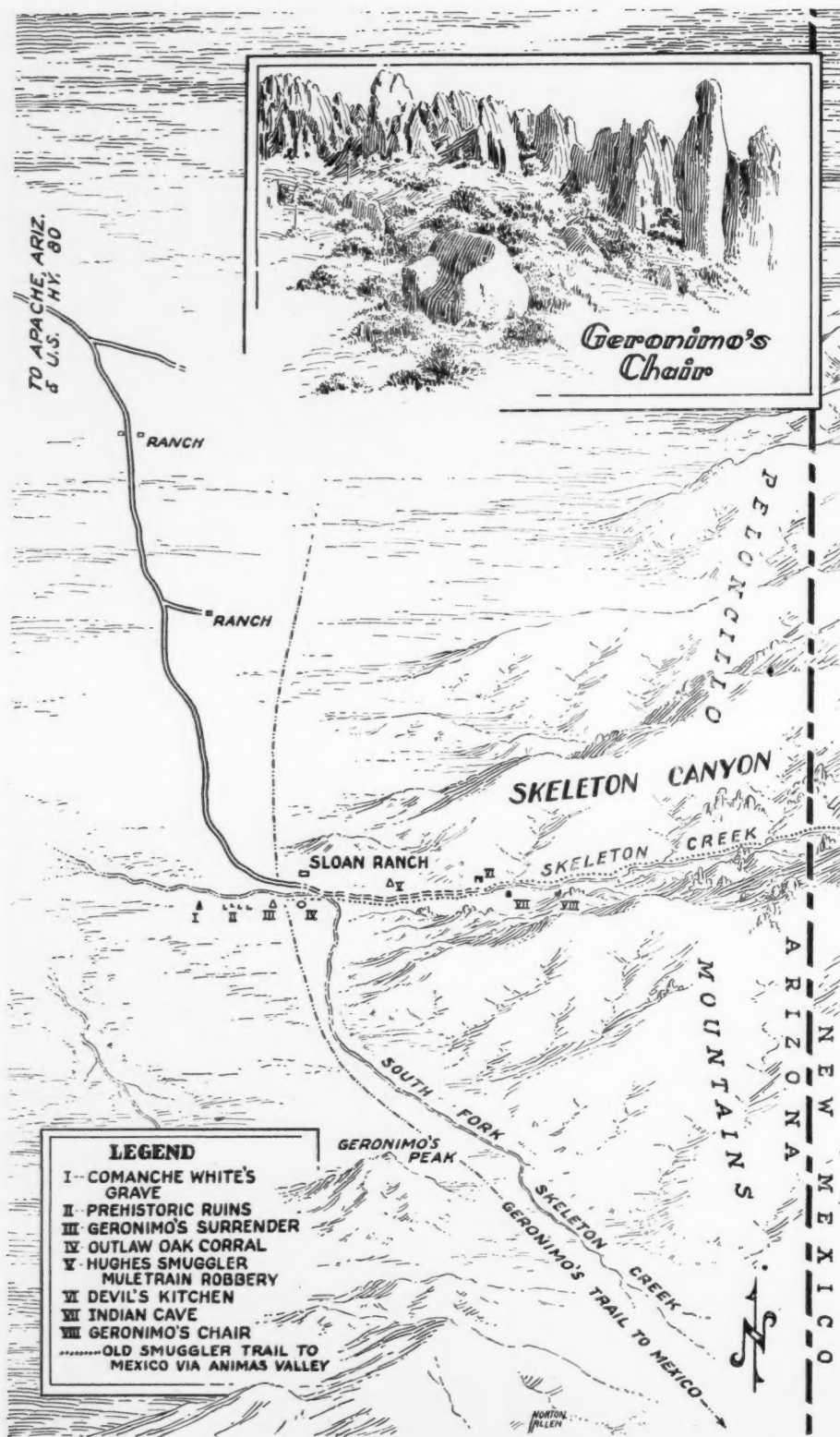
cargo ever to cross the international line. The smugglers were cautious. Their black eyes under peaked sombreros constantly scanned the cliffs as they passed through the Devil's Kitchen, and their guns were cocked and ready. But nothing happened except that the birds sang, the stream rippled in the sun, and a light breeze soughed in the tree tops. *Bueno!*

Near the canyon's entrance the 15 men stopped for tortillas and frioles, and a short siesta before tackling the long hot trek through San Simon Valley. They posted guards up and down the canyon, then stretched out comfortably on the grass under a big oak. Suddenly there came a fusilade of rifle fire from the rocky walls above and the quiet canyon exploded in a roar of crashing echoes. Three Mexicans lay dead and panic seized the others. The camp sprang into a wildly confused scramble of shouting, running men, rearing horses, and stampeding mules. The smugglers jumped on their ponies and galloped down the canyon, bullets whistling after them. Three more Mexicans fell as they fled. The heavily-laden mules, plunging and kicking in fright, scattered in all directions.

Then down out of ambush rode the bandits in hot pursuit of the treasure,

*A great stone face, two hundred feet high, looks down over the rough eastern foothills of the Chiricahua where the treasure was buried in 1881.*





and the canyon still rang with shots until the last mule was killed. Some say that one escaped but, if so, nobody knows what became of him.

During the fray Zwing Hunt was winged by a smuggler's bullet and Billy Grounds bound the wound with his undershirt. When they rejoined the others they found an almost insurmountable problem of what to do with

the loot. Dead mules lay scattered in the canyon and far out into the valley. With no wagons or pack animals the bandits couldn't move the treasure, so it was decided to cache it temporarily at the mouth of the canyon. Two men started digging a hole in the ground beneath three oak trees, while the others rifled the dead mules' aparejos and laboriously carried the bars of gold

and silver, and sacks of coins to the hiding place.

Don't ask me where the bandits procured picks and shovels, nor how two men dug a hole several yards long and seven feet deep in one afternoon. I wasn't even an innocent bystander. Neither will I vouch for the fact that Skeleton Canyon is haunted by Mexican ghosts. But I do know that for many years afterwards gold and silver coins, and the bleaching bones of men and mules lined the canyon from its entrance to the Devil's Kitchen, and that cowboys from neighboring ranches picked up human skulls to use for soap dishes and ash trays.

Jim Hughes, having engineered the raid without the knowledge of Curly Bill, was obliged to return to Gayleyville and pretend nothing had happened. The task of moving the loot was entrusted to Zwing Hunt and Billy Grounds. This they did several days later, with a four-horse wagon driven by a Mexican teamster. They buried the treasure in a remote, secret spot, killed the Mexican to seal his lips, shot the horses, and burned the wagon as a funeral pyre.

Hughes trusted his two companions in crime and waited at Gayleyville for their report. But it never came. A few days later Hunt and Grounds met and mixed with some other outlaws at the Stockton Ranch and were beaten to the draw. The younger lad's promising career in banditry was snuffed out like a candle and Hunt was taken to the Tombstone hospital, badly wounded. There, double-crossing Jim Hughes was double-crossed himself, for when he came to call, Hunt escaped by a rear window.

After a week or so Zwing Hunt's brother reported that the wounded bandit had been killed by Apaches, and showed a fresh grave to prove it. That should have ended the story, for Zwing Hunt was the only man left who knew the location of the Buried Treasure of the Chiricahuas, and his secret went into the grave with him. But the rumor of his death was undoubtedly a deliberate subterfuge to throw Jim Hughes off the scent. For, after some months, Zwing Hunt again miraculously appeared, risen from the dead—this time in his old home town, San Antonio, Texas.

But his wound was bad. Gangrene had set in and the doctors told him he hadn't long to live. He called his uncle to his bedside and poured out the whole story of the buried treasure. He then drew a map, and died. That left no one alive who has laid eyes on the loot, then or since. But Hunt's description is detailed and clear. No one should have the least difficulty

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finding the place—except for one thing. But we'll come to that later.

He explained, and showed on his map, that the cache is located at the foot of Davis Mountain. To the east stretch open, rolling plains and from the summit of the peak you can see a good-sized slice of New Mexico. A mile and a half west curves a canyon hemmed in on the far side by wooded hills, while the east wall is formed by a sheer rock precipice. Through this canyon comes a stream which flows over a ledge in a 10-foot cascade. Hunt said that he and Billy Grounds took a bath under the waterfall after they had buried the treasure. He put down on the map also, the location of two springs about a mile and a quarter apart, and called the northerly one Silver Spring and the other, Gum Spring. Then he carefully described how to find the exact spot where the loot was buried. It was between the two springs, but a little nearer Silver. The place was marked by a square-sided stone, one foot thick and three feet high, and on the east face of the stone Hunt chiseled two crosses, one above the other. Walk twenty paces east, he said, and you are standing on top of the Buried Treasure of the Chiricahuas.

So there it is. Simple, isn't it? Yet of the scores of searchers who have scoured the country in the past 70



*The Devil's Kitchen in Skeleton Canyon. It was said to be near this landmark that the Mexican pack train was ambushed and the pack animals carrying a fortune in silver and gold all killed.*

years, not one has discovered the secret of Zwing Hunt and Billy Grounds. Why?

Because nobody ever heard of Davis Mountain and Hunt neglected to tell where it is. He named the peak himself, after a pal of his whom he and Billy Grounds buried nearby. But there

are at least 200 mountains from which you can see into New Mexico. Also, there are dozens of curving canyons. All over the place one can find charred wood, skeletons, squaresided rocks and springs a mile and a quarter apart. But up to now no one has found the buried treasure. First to try was Hunt's uncle.

*Skeleton Canyon is in a remote spot in New Mexico's Peloncillo Mountains and is today prime cattle country. In the 1880's it was a smugglers' route from Mexico to Tucson.*



Then Hunt's brother spent 30 years combing the hills in vain. Altogether there must have been a hundred optimists who thought they knew where the loot was buried. But it turned out they were mistaken.

One of the most persistent searchers was Bill Sanders who had a ranch on West Turkey Creek. He believed that Zwing Hunt on his deathbed confused the names and that, instead of Davis Mountain, he meant Harris Mountain.

The various versions of Hunt's map would seem to show that Bill Sanders was right, and most of the recent treasure hunters have accepted Harris Mountain as a focal point of their searchings.

This rather shapeless limestone hump, 6100 feet in elevation, is an eastern foothill of the Chiricahuas, six miles northwest of Portal—a place almost as hard to find as the treasure. In many respects the surroundings fit Hunt's description. Broad San Simon Valley stretches away to the east, and from the mountain's summit you can see into New Mexico. At its foot is a grave. A mile and a half southwest, East Turkey Creek Canyon makes a curve, with wooded hills beyond, and after rains a stream flows there. Even a burned wagon has been found near Harris Mountain.

But there are baffling and conflicting exceptions. The grave contains the remains of a man named Harris, his wife and child, all killed by Apaches. There is no ledge in the canyon to make a ten-foot waterfall, and nobody yet has found Gum and Silver springs, let alone the correct rock.

However, you cannot discourage miners, prospectors or treasure hunters. Year after year the search goes on and hundreds of tons of Arizona soil are turned up in the everlasting hope that the next spadeful will uncover the fabulous Buried Treasure of the Chiricahuas.

As for me, although I live within ten miles of Harris Mountain, I have no interest in the three million dollars. My attitude is solely that of historian who is fired with zeal to separate the chaff from the wheat and to set down the true facts. So you will understand why I raced over to Animas Valley the minute I heard of an old Mexican there who is reported to have been one of the nine smugglers who escaped Jim Hughes' hijacking foray in 1881. The rumor is that he knows more about the treasure than he has told. Well, he still does, as far as I am concerned.

When I got my breath I accosted the old man on the subject. He looked up into the sky with eyes of infinite sadness.

"*Cananea! Cananea!*" he cackled in a rasping voice. "*Naco y nogales siempre el mexicali. Madre de Dios en senada.*"

Or at least it sounded something like that. It was all he would say. So he too, will die with the secret—if he has one—locked in his heart.

But at any rate you now know almost as much as anyone else does about how to find the Buried Treasure of the Chiricahuas. Good Luck!

## Desert Quiz

Desert Magazine's monthly Quiz is designed for two classes of readers: (1) Those who have traveled the Southwest enough to become familiar with its people, place names, history and geography, and (2) Those who are still in the tenderfoot class but would like to learn more about this interesting region. The questions delve into the fields of history, geography, botany, mineralogy, Indians and the general lore of the desert. A score of 12 to 14 is fair, 15 to 17 good, and 18 or over excellent. The answers are on page 34.

- 1—Tallest of the eight native trees found in the desert Southwest is—Joshua..... Ironwood..... Mesquite..... Palm.....
- 2—"Stope" is a word commonly used in—Surveying..... Mining..... Yachting..... Archeology.....
- 3—Travelling from Los Angeles to Flagstaff, Arizona, over Highway 66 you would cross the Colorado river at — Hoover dam..... Parker..... Ehrenburg..... Topock.....
- 4—Dr. Elwood Mead in whose honor Lake Mead was named was—U. S. Commissioner of Reclamation..... Secretary of Interior..... U. S. Army engineer..... Chief of the National Park Service.....
- 5—"The Gap" is the name of an Indian Trading Post 40 miles from—Canyon de Chelly..... Navajo Bridge..... Taos..... Acoma Mesa.....
- 6—Fiddleneck is the common name of a desert—Tree..... Flower..... Reptile..... Bird.....
- 7—Indians whose tribal home is along the Colorado River near Needles are the—Pahutes..... Hualpais..... Shoshones..... Mojaves.....
- 8—Showlow is the name of a town on—Highway 60..... Highway 80..... Highway 66..... Highway 95.....
- 9—Of the four states which meet at the common corner known as "The Four Corners" the northwestern one is—Arizona..... New Mexico..... Utah..... Colorado.....
- 10—Hotevilla is the name of a town on the reservation of the—Apache Indians..... Hopis..... Yumas..... Cahuillas.....
- 11—Mitchell Caverns are located in — Arizona..... Nevada..... Utah..... California.....
- 12—The most common form of petrified wood is—Opal..... Agate..... Calcite..... Tourmaline.....
- 13—If you wanted to meet Harry Goulding, famous trader and guide, you would go to—Death Valley..... Zion National Park..... Monument Valley..... Carlsbad Caverns.....
- 14—The fish you would find most plentiful in Salton Sea are—Mullett..... Sea Bass..... Catfish..... Salmon.....
- 15—Piki is the name of an Indian—Food..... Shelter..... Ceremonial wand..... Weapon for hunting.....
- 16—John Wesley Powell was—Commander of the army which took California from the Mexicans..... Builder of the first transcontinental railroad..... Leader of the first party to navigate the Colorado through Grand Canyon..... The officer who captured Geronimo.....
- 17—The padre who did advance scouting for the Coronado expedition was—Father Font..... Fray Marcos de Niza..... Father Kino..... Father Garces.....
- 18—Mineral most sought by prehistoric desert Indians for ornamental purposes was — Garnet..... Turquoise..... Agate..... Carnelian.....
- 19—Elephant Butte dam is in the—Colorado River..... Gila River..... Virgin River..... Rio Grande River.....
- 20—The bird most commonly found nesting in the Saguaro cactus is—Roadrunner..... Woodpecker..... Cactus wren..... Quail.....





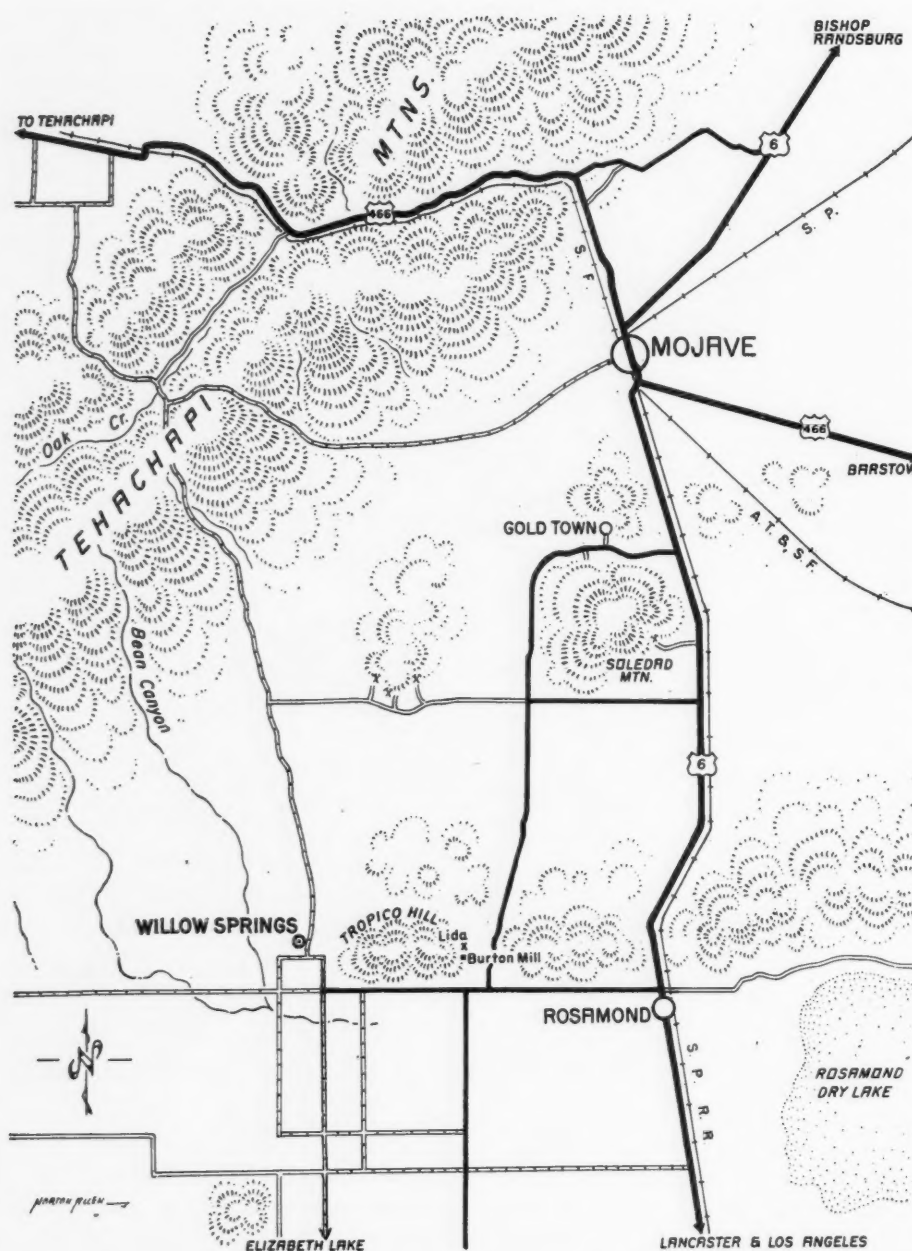
*This is Ezra Moffet Hamilton in 1899, standing almost on the spot from which he took out \$4000 in gold. His magnifying glass, standard equipment of most miners, can be seen dangling from his finger, on a leather thong. Like many before him, he used the once common horn for sampling for gold. It is a cow's horn, cut in half lengthwise and with one end cut off. This formed a convenient vessel, and was responsible for the once common term, "horning"—a word replaced by the term "panning." His trousers are patched—not that he couldn't afford new ones—but because the padded patches made kneeling on the rocky ground less damaging to the knees. C. C. Pierce photo, courtesy Title Insurance and Trust Company, Los Angeles.*

## When Ezra Hamilton Found Gold at Willow Springs

By MARCIA RITTENHOUSE WYNN

To Ezra Hamilton, gold in the ground was the same as gold in the bank—to be taken out only as it was needed for the living expenses for his family. Here is the story of a rich strike on the Mojave desert a half century ago — and of one of the most famous old waterholes in Southern California.

**E**ZRA HAMILTON, owner of a flourishing tile works in Los Angeles wasn't thinking of mines or gold the day he started hunting a better clay for his pipe making back in the middle 'eighties. The City of Angels had recently been stirred out of its boundaries and tranquility by a whopping real estate boom. The



boom had greatly increased the town's population, and this in turn had created a large demand for pipe, especially soil pipe, to replace the open water ditches and out-grown plumbing of pueblo days.

The local clay Ezra Hamilton was using didn't vitrify to suit him, so he inserted ads in the southland's leading papers, hoping to learn the whereabouts of a good, decomposed silica deposit. One of the samples he received in response to the ad came from near Rosamond, on the Mojave desert.

Ezra's son, Fred Hamilton, who lives near Rosamond today, recalled the story for me. The sender of the silica was Doctor Crandall. The sample contained the necessary ingredients, so Ezra ordered a carload.

Though this desert silica relieved the Angelenos of their plumbing deficiencies, it would have been of no import to history had it not contained more than Hamilton had bargained for. There was gold in it!

Its gold values were discovered by the tile manufacturer when he panned some of the earth and saw the bright yellow stringer in his pan. When he sampled it he was but following his bent as a miner, for Ezra had emigrated to the California gold fields from Illinois in 1853, then a young man of 20. He had left home with only a carpet bag of necessities and \$15, and though he gained experience in mining, he failed to accumulate much gold. Finally he left for the pueblo of Los Angeles where he became a strong and colorful supporter of better politics.

Ezra did not become too excited over the color he found in his pan, for there wasn't enough of it to tempt him from his lucrative tile factory. He continued to supply the citizens of growing Los Angeles with pipe and other clay products. Some time later he purchased the land the silica came from. He made trips out to the desert, but it was not until the middle 'nineties that he began prospecting the region in earnest. At that period the surrounding desert was in the grip of another of its mining excitements, and gold fever spread throughout the southland.

After several years of intermittent searching among the colorful peaks and rugged buttes near the small settlement of Rosamond and the railroad center of Mojave, Ezra found what all mining men dream of coming upon—a rich ledge of gold-bearing ore. He found it on the top of a narrow, rocky hogback of a rugged desert mountain. He staked out eight claims and called his mine the Lida, after his wife. The mountain on which the mine was located was once known as Hamilton Hill, but in recent years has been renamed Tropic. It is also referred to as Burton's Hill, for the Burton brothers later came into possession of the hill and erected a large mill there—one of the few active mills on the desert today.

Soon after locating the Lida, Ezra sent for his sons, Fred, Lester and Truman, to assist him in putting up a two-stamp mill and operating the mine. During the next few years rich bodies of ore were found running as high as \$90,000 a ton, and the Lida became known to every mining man in Southern California. Today one can see the narrow slit of a shaft in the top of the mountain, where Ezra mined the rich vein. Sometime after 1900 a five-stamp mill replaced the small original plant.

With gold from the Lida, Ezra bought the land around the famous old stage station at Willow Springs, one of the earliest and best known watering places on all the broad reaches of the Mojave—a place that had been of great importance to early explorers and travelers, as well as to desert Indians. It was here, in the spring of 1776, that Padre Garces refreshed himself during his wanderings in the southern San Joaquin Valley and adjacent desert. It was a main stopping place on the old Joe Walker trail leading north across the desert, and at an early date was often referred to as the Indian Horse-thief Trail, for many a Spanish rancher's prize horses were led from the lush pastures of the coastal region to the arid haunts of desert tribes, to

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John C. Fremont, Alexis Godey, Kit Carson and other famous explorers and hunters camped here on their history-making trips across the southern desert and mountains. Long before Hamilton bought the springs they had been used as a main station for the teams and ore wagons that moved under the supervision of Remi Nadeau, transferring the fabulous silver-lead cargo of Cerro Gordo to Los Angeles and San Pedro.

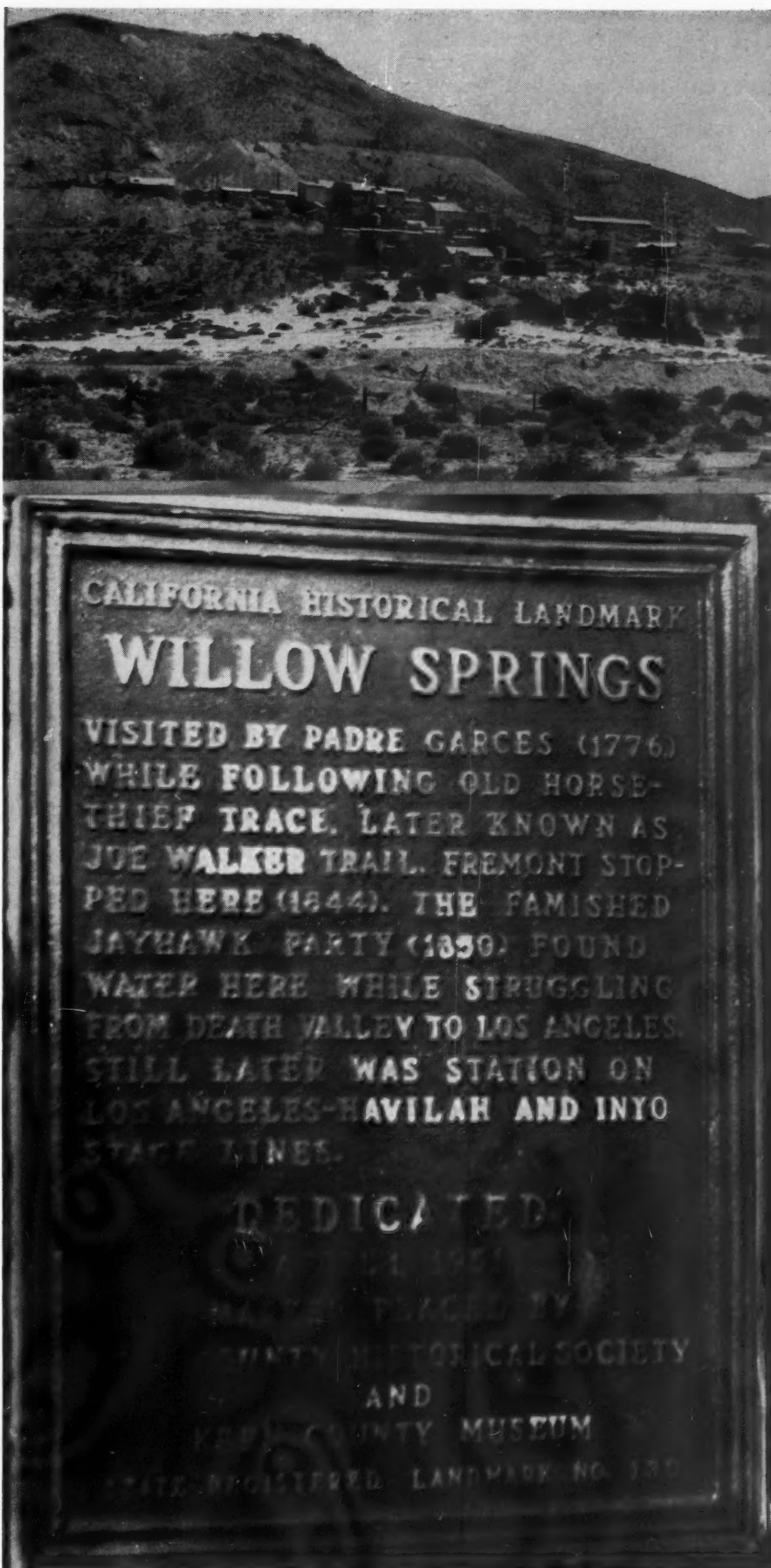
Fred Hamilton recalls that when his father purchased the springs the remains of the old stables were evident, and in partial ruins were the walls of the old tavern, under whose roof both famous and infamous travelers of an earlier day had been sheltered and fed. Under this roof more than one fight had taken place between temperamental cooks and disgruntled travelers, or between guests who had partaken too much of the bottled goods.

The Hamiltons put up additional buildings, using the rock and adobe nearby, so it would harmonize with the desert. Travelers of the day were surprised and delighted when they rounded a turn in the dusty desert road and caught first sight of the emerald green trees clustered tightly about the springs, the attractive buildings and well-kept yards.

One building was used for entertainments and dances. Ezra had a stage built, complete with hand-painted scenery, and many a desert trouper entertained an audience that came by horse-and-buggy, ore wagon, burro cart and boot leather from distant mines, and from the desert's nearby settlements. In keeping with the spirit of the times, dance prizes were frequently tiny gold bricks, from five to 30 dollars in value. Some of those living in Antelope Valley treasure these prizes today, having kept them for their memories.

Men who worked at the Lida mine lived with their families at the springs and there was a small school and post-office. Ezra Hamilton was post master. When there were not enough children at the springs to meet the required number of pupils, the Hamiltons saw to it that a teacher was hired who had a brood of her own.

Ezra was a man of strong stamp and had his own notions about living. If some of his ideas were out of the usual pattern, at least they were practical. Fred Hamilton told me that his father had a pronounced reluctance to mine all the gold he could in the shortest possible time, as did the other miners. He looked upon the desert mountain as a bank — a good, safe repository, and he, himself, assumed



Above—The Burton Mill on Tropico Hill today.  
Below—Bronze plaque erected at Willow Springs by Kern County Historical Society and Museum.

the role of conservative banker-cashier. If his Hamilton Hill bank paid no interest at least he was safe from bank runs, panic and absconding clerks, and he didn't have to worry about over-indulgence on the part of himself or family. Too much money at one time might tend to spoil his sons, and in any event, it was a wasteful way of mining.

So the mill was run only about four months out of the year, just long enough to provide the family with what was needed for good living, and to build up the various Hamilton enterprises on the desert.

During the years of recurring mining booms on the Mojave Desert, when miners were racing to the newest discovery, the newspapers frequently carried headlines of rich new deposits being discovered in the Lida, but Ezra mined on, in his own leisurely fashion, and the mill ran only when funds were needed.

Fred told me the following incident. He and his brother, Truman, wanted to go to the Saint Louis Fair in 1904, and they asked their father if they could get out some ore and use the proceeds for the trip.

Ezra pondered. In the ore they'd been running, he figured five tons would bring them around \$500.

"Yes," he said. "Take out five tons, mill it and see the fair."

Luck was with the boys and they ran into some exceptionally high-grade ore. The returns from the milling were much more than their father had anticipated. It brought them \$5000! But Ezra wouldn't back down on his promise. He waited somewhat anxiously to see what the boys would do with so much money. True to their upbringing, they decided five thousand was more than they should spend and they deposited two thousand in the bank.

In April my husband and I drove out past Newhall, and over the excel-



*Prospector of 50 years ago—his bags of gold concentrates on the floor behind him. Photo, courtesy Fred Hamilton.*

lent highway to Palmdale, Lancaster and Rosamond, then over a local road the eight miles to Willow Spring. The special event that attracted us was the installation of the Willow Springs Historical marker, Monument Number 130, seventh of a series on the Manly-Jayhawker Trail of 1848-50. Well-known historians spoke of the springs' important place in southland history, and old-timers were called upon to add a word of their own.

It was over 100 years since seg-

ments of the ill-fated Death Valley party of 'Forty-niners stopped there, drank deeply of the good water and let their few animals eat and recover strength before passing over the last of the dreaded desert that would lead them to Los Angeles.

I recall that my first auto ride from our mine near Randsburg to Los Angeles took me by Willow Springs. It was in my pig-tail days, when cars were a novelty.

It was dark by the time we reached Willow Springs, and I recall how we suddenly emerged from the desert's inky blackness, and found ourselves in an electrically lit oasis. No coal-oil lamps for Willow Springs! Fred Hamilton had installed what was probably the first privately owned electric light plant in Antelope Valley. There were also an ice plant and cold storage room.

Today there are several families at Willow Springs and during the warm months of the year the modern pool is seldom without its swimmers. Most of the rock, cement and adobe buildings Ezra Hamilton built there are in service today.

It was gold from the Lida mine that built the Hamilton Hotel in Rosamond. This building was erected in 1905 and was quite an imposing landmark in its day. Rich specimens of gold-bearing quartz were placed in the keystones of the front arch, but this high-grade has long since fallen into the hands of collectors. This long known desert hostelry was later re-named the Quartz Hotel, and is seen by all who cross that section of the Mojave on Highway 6 today.

Fred Hamilton estimates that Hamilton Hill (known today as Tropic Hill) produced nearly \$3,500,000 for its various owners—gold that might never have been unearthed had a busy tile maker in La Ciudad Los Angeles not wanted a better clay for his pipe-making.

*Its roof partly gone, this is the ruin of the school built by Ezra Hamilton a half century ago.*



*Willow Spring — famous waterhole on the Mojave, rendezvous for prospectors, horse-thieves, Indians.*







*It wasn't good Navajo manners, but Big Talks would always invite himself to share the food.*

## Big Talks 'Borrows' the Trader's Ax

By SANDY HASSELL

WITH AN outstretched hand and a smile on his face Big Talks greeted Trader Two Sugar, "Ah la ha ney see kis." In English it means something like: "Well, if it isn't my old friend." Two Sugar accepted the hand without comment. He knew this was too friendly a greeting for a Navajo who was not a regular customer. Sometimes an Indian friend greeted him like this but it was usually done in a joking way. Did Big Talks want credit or what did he want? Whatever it was, Two Sugar knew it would be well to be on guard.

Big Talks soon let the cause of his friendliness be known. "My friend, I have brought a big load of good wood from a long distance for you to buy," he announced.

Two Sugar used coal from a nearby mine for fuel and had little need for wood. Boxes from the store supplied him with enough kindling. However, he kept some wood for Indians to burn in the camp hogan when they came from a long distance to trade and had to stay overnight. An inspection of the wood showed that it was neither

a large load nor of good quality. It was just a lot of poles that probably had been used as a fence around Big Talks' corn patch. Upon inquiry Big Talks admitted this but was quick to explain. "It is a long time until Spring. Maybe by then the Government will decide to build a good wire fence around my corn patch if there is none there. They have done this for several of my neighbors."

Two Sugar made an offer of four dollars, which he considered very liberal. "Do beeger," not enough, complained Big Talks, but he added: "But, my friend I will let you have it for this price."

For two dollars a day he would stay and chop the wood into lengths that would fit into a stove. Big Talks was sure he could finish the job in one day. Big Talks didn't mind chopping wood when receiving two dollars a day. He thought the white man was foolish to pay him this much when Two Sugar had a wife and daughter who could do it just as well.

After the wood was unloaded by the trading post, Big Talks went inside and collected four dollars. And while they were doing business this would be a good time to trade out the two dollars that he was going to get for chopping wood tomorrow.

With an ax borrowed from Two Sugar, Big Talks put in the next day chopping wood. He worked steadily but when sundown came the job was only about half finished. The next day he felt sore, so he thought he had better rest a day. Why hurry? He had a good hogan to stay in, plenty of wood to burn and money to buy food. This was more than he had at home. And while it was on his mind he had better trade out the two dollars that he was going to get for chopping the rest of the wood. Then he wouldn't have to worry about it anymore.

Several days had passed since the last of the wood was chopped and Big Talks was still hanging around the trading post. He tried unsuccessfully to get credit for another load of wood that he was going to bring in a few days. Two Sugar wished he would leave for he was becoming a nuisance. Each time a Navajo family opened a can of fruit or tomatoes and had a feast on the floor of the trading post, Big Talks would invite himself to attend. This wasn't good Navajo manners even if Big Talks was a part-time medicine man and enjoyed a few extra privileges. Two Sugar knew Navajos didn't like this familiarity. Then one morning, after the wood that Big Talks had chopped had almost reached the vanishing point, he was missing; also the ax he had borrowed.

A couple of weeks passed and again Big Talks showed up at the trading post with his familiar greeting and outstretched hand. This time Two Sugar ignored the hand. If Big Talks noticed the slight he didn't show it. "My friend, I have brought you another big load of wood to buy," Two Sugar was told.

The wood was examined and the same price was agreed on, although it looked as if this load was just a little smaller than the last. This time the wood was unloaded in the yard behind the trading post where Two Sugar kept his big black watch dog. He wasn't going to have Big Talks burn up all the wood before he took his leave. No, he wasn't going to have this wood chopped. When an Indian wanted a fire in the hogan, he would let him do his own chopping.

When the payoff came, Two Sugar placed two dollars and fifty cents on the counter. "Do beeger," not enough, complained Big Talks.

"It is enough my friend. The dollar and four bits I am keeping is for the ax you bought when you were here before. You went away and forgot to pay me," Two Sugar explained.

"But, my friend, I didn't buy the ax. I only borrowed it and took it home. The next time I come I will return it." Two Sugar was a good man for he always put two spoonsful of sugar in each can of tomatoes he opened, instead of the customary one; but he was very unreasonable at times. Why should Two Sugar object to him borrowing the ax when he had many more just like it in the store? Besides what did he want with an ax if he wasn't going to have his wood chopped?

"When you return the ax, I will give you the dollar and four bits," Two Sugar told him.

Big Talks placed his hand on his forehead and appeared to be in deep thought. "Ah, my friend I remember now, perhaps the ax is not at my home. Maybe I have it tied underneath my wagon where it is hidden from the eyes of some worthless Indian who would likely steal it. I will go and get it for you."

Big Talks went out of the store and in a few minutes he returned smiling. He had the ax in his hand. "My good friend I am glad we are getting to know each other better. This proves I am an honest man and always return what I borrow. Now I am sure you will have no objection to putting two dollars on the books for some groceries I wish to buy."

## Ute Indians to Spend Fortune

Enactment of the Ute claims bill has bolstered the faith of the Ute Indians in democratic Government, according to Francis McKinley, chairman of the Ute Planning Board and Reginald O. Curry, business manager and chairman of the Ute Tribal Council. President Truman, on August 21, signed H. R. 3795 "to provide for the use of tribal funds of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, to authorize a per capita payment out of such funds, to provide for the division of certain tribal funds with the Southern Utes, and for other purposes." The money, approximately \$31,000,000 was awarded last year as a climax to a 12-year suit in the United States Court of Claims involving sale of Ute lands by the Federal Government. It is reputed to be the largest settlement ever won by an Indian Tribe in the Court of Claims. The three bands of

Utes on the Uintah-Ouray Reservation have a plan to use their share of the money. It is divided into these major efforts: 1. An immediate payment of \$1000 to each Indian; 2. A million dollar loan fund, administered by the Tribal Council; 3. Allocation of some \$1,250,000 for reacquisition of some non-Indian owned lands that checker-board the reservation, hampering farm and grazing development programs; 4. The balance, for school improvement, fish and wildlife conservation and adult education. Said officials of the tribe, "It is especially noteworthy during these times that the United States Government has recognized the rights and interests of one of its minority people and given them great opportunities to better themselves through exercise of their rights as free and democratic people."

## To "Life on the Desert" Contest Writers

Desert readers who are planning to enter stories in the "Life on the Desert" contest which was announced in the last two issues of *Desert Magazine*, are reminded that all entries must be in the editorial office at Palm Desert by November 1.

Early in November the judges, composed of staff members at the *Desert Magazine* office, will read and judge the stories sent in, and announcement of the winners will be in the January issue.

For the best story of from 1200 to 1500 words, an award of \$25.00 will be made. To each other contestant who submits an acceptable story the award will be \$15.

The manuscript should be a true experience, preferably of the writer—no yarns or tall tales or hearsay stories will qualify. The experience may involve danger while lost in the desert wilderness, or the Indian country. It may be the meeting of an unusual character, revealing a phase of human nature, or a distinct way of life.

The contest is open to amateur and professional writers alike, but those who plan to submit manuscripts should carefully observe the following rules:

All manuscripts must be typewritten, on one side of the page only.

Entries should be addressed to Editor, *Desert Magazine*, Palm Desert, California, and must reach this office by November 1, 1951, to qualify for the awards.

If good sharp 5x7 or larger pictures are available, an extra \$3.00 will be paid for each photograph accepted. Pictures are not essential, however.

Writers must be prepared to supply confirmation as to the authenticity of their stories. Only true experiences are wanted.

All stories must be essentially of the desert, and the scene is limited to Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and the desert area of California.

True names of those involved must be given, although with the knowledge of the judges, fictitious names may be substituted in special cases where there is reflection on personal character.

If the story has appeared previously in print, this fact and the time and name of the medium in which it appeared should be given.

All readers of *Desert Magazine* are invited to submit manuscripts. Unaccepted manuscripts will be returned if accompanied by return postage.





SWAINSON'S HAWK

## *Birds of Prey . . .*

### DO THEY DESERVE EXTINCTION?

Text and Photographs by GEORGE M. BRADT

**T**HE DESERT'S Birds of Prey—the eagles, hawks and owls—are at once beautiful and awe-inspiring, fascinating as well as beneficial. They are part and parcel of the desert, as typical of the Southwest as cactus and creosote, sand dune and foothill, pack rat, coyote, cicada and centipede, horned toad and rattler. The desert was theirs before it was ours, and the day that the last eagle hovers on high, and the last hawk perches on fence post or yucca, and the last owl wings the night, will mark the beginning of the end of the desert so many of us know and love. And that day will come unless the needless slaughter of our irreplaceable Birds of Prey—carried on by so-called sportsmen, encouraged by manufacturers of ammunition, and tolerated by state legislators and game officials—is halted, not tomorrow, but today! These magnificent creatures must be protected or the great eagles and graceful hawks, and all the silent owls

will follow the Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet, the Heath Hen and the Arizona Elk into oblivion.

They are killer birds, yes, and they sometimes prey on other species of the winged life of the air. But they also are killers of the rodent and the insect which are a constant menace to the security of mankind. And so, in the over-all scheme of Nature, who can say that these raptors of the bird family deserve the sentence of death which has been imposed upon them by man? Nature has a way of keeping her world in balance—a way that generally is beyond the understanding of men. And it often has happened that when humans have undertaken to change the fine adjustment in the natural order of things, they have brought loss and sorrow upon themselves.

So let these photographs speak for the speechless birds, let their pictures say, "Watch us if you wish, study and enjoy us, but save us from extinction."



GOLDEN EAGLE





BURROWING OWLS



*Hopi Dance—C. C. Pierce photograph*

### THE SANDS ARE SINGING

By MARTHA BOUTWELL GARVIN  
San Diego, California

The sands are singing a song tonight—  
A tune that gives the darkness light,  
A tune that holds the yesteryear  
With all its joy, without its fear.  
The sands are singing to me and you.  
Will you accept their message, too?

### COMPENSATION

By MARGARET HASELTINE BERGER  
Corona del Mar, California

What hairy spider does not ply an art  
Of airy loveliness to catch the heart?  
What spiny cactus does not bear a flower  
Of glowing pearly radiance for an hour?  
What lowly sand dune in the setting sun  
But can display a sculpture not outdone?  
What sorrow does not bring a strength  
beside?  
What evil is evil unqualified?  
What tragic error but becomes a test  
By which we learn, and learning, yet are  
blessed?

### IN SEARCH OF GOLD

By DOUGLAS W. WALKER  
San Diego, California

Pegleg Smith and the Lost Dutchman's gold,  
Their stories and legends have often been  
told.  
And many have gone in search of their ore,  
And many the struggles and hardships  
they bore.

But I wonder, in search of this treasure,  
If they haven't been using the wrong  
kind of measure.  
For wealth and beauty have been all around,  
While their eyes sought nought but gold  
in the ground.

### DESERT DRAMA

By MARGARET HORMELL

North Palm Springs, California  
The patch of grass before my door is dead;  
Wind-ridden, treeless acres in the pass  
Yet fear not sun and gusty storm, nor dread  
The spring. I, only, mourn the buried grass.  
The sand is sharp and cruel this moonlight  
night,  
However soft it pelts the pane nearby.  
But sand, unstable as intolerant minds,  
Obliterates but briefly beauty's hue;  
The grass, as rare as truth, prevails, and finds  
A way, though deeply trapped, to struggle  
through  
And rise above the leaden, binding shoal—  
Each forms a needful portion of the whole.

### EVENING TIME

By AMY VIAU  
Santa Ana, California

There has to be an evening time  
So the stars and moon can show  
And the sun be left to settle down  
That the sky's west rim may glow.

There should not be all morning time  
Nor always noon-time day,  
The twilight must be given hour  
To spread its tender gray.

There's need for evening's soft cool arms  
In which tired things can rest  
And earth can feel the freshening dew  
Upon its sun-dried breast.

### DESERT

By H. LEIGHTON ZEBOLD  
Pasadena, California

The Desert is daughter to the sun,  
A buxom princess on her throne,  
Bronzed and lithe, with gems arrayed,  
Dazzling her daily promenade.  
Enamored all who court her grace  
And envied by them her soft embrace!

The Desert is daughter to the sun,  
Gladly her feet upon his errands run.  
Within her garden, fenced by mountain wall,  
She tends her flowers—sweet memorial  
To them who came to her for rest,  
To them who sleep upon her breast.

### SANCTUARY

By RALPH A. FISHER, SR.  
Phoenix, Arizona

The aged prospector, in search of the Holy  
Grail  
Tread countless miles behind a dusty  
burro's tail.  
Found not the sacrificial platter nor Holy  
Grail,  
But sanctuary at the end of Death Valley  
Trail.

### By the Golden Rule

By TANYA SOUTH

Give gladly of yourself and time,  
Nor ask for monetary gain!  
They who attain the heights sublime  
With greed their virtue will not stain.

Give gladly, grandly of your hoard.  
You shall be dealt with as you deal.  
There are no secrets from the Lord.  
Your acts your Fate will seal.

## Dance Day

By GASTON BURRIDGE  
Downey, California

Garnet chili, brown adobe,  
Slanting gold of dusky sun,  
Rhythmic drum beats mixed with dancing  
Moccasins which thud as one.

Lapis hazes cut by mountains,  
Turquoise sky with matrix clouds,  
Foothill mounds of yellow chamais  
Vibrant where dim echo crowds.

Swaying bodies daubed with color  
Silver-sheened with beads of sweat,  
Humble hearts that pray to rain gods  
Who have never failed them yet.

Moccasins that thud to drum-beats  
Praying only as they knew  
Filled my heart with their strange rhythm  
Till I was praying with them too!

### MY LOVE—THE DESERT

By E. A. BRININSTOOL  
Los Angeles, California

I'm in my desert fastness—the silent painted  
land,  
Where sunrise glories thrill me, and where,  
across the sand,  
Gleam splendors which no painter, but God  
Himself, can show,  
In changing lights and shadows, tinged by  
the sunset's glow.

Across the wide arroyos the broken buttes  
rise high,  
And far beyond, the mountains, whose white  
crests pierce the sky.  
The wine-like air brings to me the desert  
smells I love—  
The scent of sage and greasewood, from  
mesa-lands above.

I'm in my desert fastness—a barren soli-  
tude—  
No city noises clanging outside my cabin  
rude.  
Only the gentle breezes, across the sagebrush  
floor,  
In low-crooned soothing whispers, drift idly  
past my door.

Oh, glorious desert country, your magic  
spell I know!  
Your lure is strong, resistless, when from  
your depths I go!  
Your wild wastes call and beckon, in accents  
glad and true,  
And your calm stretches soothe me, when I  
return to you!

### OCTOBER STILL LIFE PAINTING

By HAZEL BAKER DENTON  
Caliente, Nevada

Against the sapphire curtain of autumnal  
skies,  
Our village is a bowl of golden boughs  
Set down within the mauve  
And purple folds of desert hills—  
The tapestry of ancient goddesses  
Who stitched with massive tools  
Their Gods' desires for beauty's everlasting  
thrills.

The whirl of time in space flies on,  
Nor reckons with its billion spheres  
Where Evolution's patient plan  
Sets deep within the soul of man  
The treasured love of quiet beauties  
Through his few short years.



## THE *Desert* MAGAZINE CLOSE-UPS

Making his initial bow to *Desert Magazine* readers this month is Richard F. Logan, author of the story about the exploration of Crystal Cave in the Death Valley National Monument.

Logan is assistant professor of geography at the University of California in Los Angeles and director of the summer geography camp. He came to the university three years ago after completing his training at Clark university at Worcester, Mass., and at Harvard.

Like many other easterners who establish homes in the Southwest, Richard found the desert a fascinating place for study and recreation, and his trips have included such widely separated areas as the wild plateaus of Utah and the "hanging palm canyon" in the Kofa range of Arizona. He has seen snow on the Joshuas, sand storms at Palm Springs, a flaming desert sunset from Kingston Pass.

Through *Desert Magazine* Logan made the acquaintance of Mary Beal, foremost botanist of the Mojave Desert, and has made several botanical field trips under her guidance.

He is married and has two daughters. His wife says he has become such an avid desert fan he is always making plans for the next trip into the arid region before the clothes from the last trip have been laundered.

Probably many readers of *Desert* will be interested in knowing more about the National Speleological Society, sponsors of the cave exploration described by Logan in his story. According to the author, the members generally fall into one of two groups: speleologists who have a scientific interest in caves; and spelunkers, who explore caves just for the fun of it.

Local chapters of the society are called Grottoes. Logan formerly was chairman of the New England Grotto, and later helped organize a Grotto in Southern California. Its meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month in the Pasadena Public library. Field trips are arranged throughout the year. Walter S. Chamberlin, who took the pictures illustrating the story in *Desert Magazine* this month, is now chairman of the Southern California Grotto.

Marcia Wynn Samuelson, who wrote the story of the colorful Ezra Hamilton for this issue of *Desert Magazine* is a Sun Valley, California, housewife who spends all her spare moments writing.

She is the author of two books, *Pioneer Family of Whiskey Flat*, and *Desert Bonanza*.

Mrs. Samuelson's knowledge of the desert Southwest did not come entirely from books. She was born at the old Baltic Gold mine near Randsburg, and has lived or been in close touch with the desert during the intervening years. She does a great deal of historical research before undertaking any writing project.

• • •

### MANY EVENTS PLANNED FOR 49ER ENCAMPMENT

DEATH VALLEY—Six authors of western lore, Edwin Corle, Marcia Wynn Samuelson, Frank Latta, William Caruthers, Phil Townsend Hanna, and Ardis Walker have thus far accepted an invitation to participate in the

Western Authors' breakfast, a planned feature of the Death Valley encampment program to be held December 1 and 2. John D. Henderson, head of Los Angeles county libraries, is making arrangements and announces that he is awaiting word from other participants. Floyd Evans, chairman of the photographic exhibit, has issued invitations to 150 well known amateur photographers in southern California to submit photographs from which 75 will be selected for display. There will be mass square dancing, arranged for by Bruce Morgan, chairman. John Hilton, Twentynine Palms artist, has tentatively accepted chairmanship of the art display which will include representative paintings of several western artists. More than 30 gem and mineral groups are expected to exhibit.

## Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley



The clerk at Inferno store had gone out in the hills to do some assessment work on his mine, and Hard Rock Shorty had agreed to take care of the customers, if any.

It was mid-morning and Shorty was dozing on the bench under the lean-to porch when a shiny car stopped at the gas pump and the driver began honking his horn. Hard Rock didn't like motorists who honked their horns, but it was his job to give service so he got up leisurely and sauntered out to the pump.

The car was loaded with hunters, all togged up in brand new outfits. They were impatient to be on their way.

"Any deer up in them mountains?" asked the driver as he nodded toward the Panamints.

"Lots of 'em!" Shorty answered curtly.

"How do yu get up there? Which is the best road?" asked the hunter.

"Ain't no roads," grunted Shorty. "An' besides, it's dangerous to hunt them deer. May get killed yerself."

The hunters did not understand this kind of talk, and kept asking questions. They wanted to know where was the best place to find

the deer, and how near could they drive to the mountains and how far would they have to walk. And why was it dangerous to hunt the deer in the Panamints?

Shorty finally lost his patience. "I'll tell you why that is bad country fer hunters," he exclaimed.

"My partner, Pisgah Bill, used to hunt up there. But he don't do it no more. He nearly got killed th' last time he shot a buck up there. Them deer is too fast. Yu see Bill was headin' up that spur yu see on the side o' the mountain when a big buck stepped out from behind a rock. Was a dead easy shot but Bill missed his heart and caught 'im in the shoulder. Bill wuz carryin' a high-powered rifle and the impact of that bullet spun the animal around so fast that when the bullet cum out the other side it wuz headin' right back fer where Bill was standin'. Ol' Pisgah tried to duck, but he wuz too slow. That hunk o' lead hit 'im on the head and if th' ol' buzzard hadn't had sech a thick skull it'd a killed 'im. He still carries a scar where that bullet bounced off his scalp. Bill don't go huntin' there no more."

# MINES AND MINING . . .

## Needles, California . . .

According to an airmail letter from Congressman Harry Shepard, the White Mountain Lime company has applied for a government loan of \$2,600,000 to construct a processing plant near Cadiz, about 60 miles west of Needles. A 50-year supply of limestone is available at the nearby White Mountain deposit. Indications are that it will be one of the largest plants of its kind in Southern California.—*Desert Star*.

## Lovelock, Nevada . . .

Shipping of 20 carloads of iron ore per day to a Coast port from the iron district located on the east side of the Humboldt range is planned by the Mineral Materials Co. of Alhambra. Shipping will start in 90 days. The company acquired the 16 claims in the group from the owner in 1941-42. During World War II, the federal government diamond drilled the property. Four million tons of ore were indicated. The ore is magnetite. Sulphur and phosphorous, objectionable in high grade ore, are not a problem. A minimum of 56 percent purity has been established. Among the properties of Mineral Materials Co. are the Standard Tungsten Mine near Barstow, the Atlas Silica Mine at Kelso, and the Baxter Iron Mine at Baxter. Nevada will supply more than 200,000 long tons of iron ore this year as part of the million or more tons being shipped from the United States to keep Japan's iron industries operating.—*California Mining Journal*.

## San Francisco, California . . .

Steatite talc, a critical defense material in World War II, is the subject

of a new special report issued by the California State Division of Mines, Olaf P. Jenkins, Chief of the Division announced August 29, 1951. California was the only producer of steatite talc in the United States between World Wars I and II; during and after World War II it has been the leading producer. Special Report 8, entitled *Talc Deposits of Steatite Grade, Inyo County, California*, is of especial significance because Inyo County contains all reserves of steatite talc known in the state. Ben M. Page, author of the report, visited 32 talc mines and prospects in the state during the course of his investigation.

## Grants, New Mexico . . .

Laguna Indians have given the Anaconda Copper Co., a permit to do exploratory work on a recently discovered uranium ore field on Laguna pueblo lands. Selection of Anaconda was made by the pueblo council after listening to proposals from Anaconda and from George Hanosh, Grants prospector and garage owner. Anaconda now is assisting the Santa Fe railway in prospecting at the uranium field discovered near Haystack mountain northwest of Grants and is said to extend to the Rio Puerco, 50 miles west of Albuquerque. The council meeting was attended by representatives of the Laguna Indian pueblo, Indian service officials, AEC, Santa Fe and Anaconda Copper uranium experts.—*Gallup Independent*.

## Searchlight, Nevada . . .

High-grade gold and silver ore in considerable quantities has been uncovered on the 100 foot level of the Blossom mine in the Searchlight district. Plans are being made to expand mining operations immediately, according to Homer G. Mills, president of the Searchlight Consolidated Mining and Milling Co., operators of the property. The Blossom has produced \$900,000 in gold and silver values during the past eight years and was the first mine in the United States to ship a car of gold-bearing ore after World War II restrictions were lifted. Ore now being mined and sacked for shipment has averaged \$2500. Lowest workings in the mine at present are only 182 feet deep and it is planned to conduct extensive exploration considerably deeper to determine the extent of the ore bodies.—*Battle Mountain Scout*.

## Hawthorne, Nevada . . .

Tungsten ore from the Flying Cloud mine, owned by Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Babcock of Hawthorne and leased to Dows Metals, Inc., of San Francisco, will soon be going out over the new road to the mine which is practically completed. Assays made at the University of Nevada indicate as high as 15.2% tungsten trioxide. Based upon the present day price paid for tungsten, together with gold and silver values included, ore from the Flying Cloud would run \$604 a ton.—*Mineral County Independent News*.

## Banning, California . . .

The processing of perlite is a proposed new industry for Banning. A lease arrangement is being sought from the city for five acres of airport land. Material would be brought from the Turtle Mountains, processed by heat and then shipped out by truck or railroad. M. J. Meadows and Kenneth Martin of Banning are interested in the company, which also plans plants in other communities. The proposal is being held for further study in order to secure more information from company representatives.—*Banning Record*.

## Inyo, California . . .

Diamond drilling is reportedly under way at Leviathan sulphur mine near Markleeville in Alpine County. According to a report in Mining and Industrial News, the work is being done under contract for Anaconda Copper Mining Co., which may reopen the mine in the near future. Leviathan was operated during World War I and is said to include a huge underground deposit of sulphur. In 1948, shipments were made from the property by Texas Gulf Sulphur Co., operations being handled by Siskon Mining Corp., a subsidiary.—*Inyo Independent*.

## Barstow, California . . .

Tungsten, the critical steel-hardening metal vitally needed, will be milled in Barstow, according to Jack Licht, owner-operator of the Lighthouse Mining and Milling Corp. Mill workers are now completing shakedown operations at the rebuilt concentrating plant located on Riverside Drive near the Santa Fe yards. Licht revealed that approximately 50 tons of wolframite ore have been processed daily since the beginning of shakedown operations on July 15. He expects to increase the plant's capacity to 100 tons daily, and may stockpile locally purchased ore in limited quantities.

—*Printer Review*.

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# HERE AND THERE ... on the Desert

## ARIZONA

### There's Money in Snakes . . .

WICKENBURG—Fred Washburn Lovejoy and son, Earl, who came to Wickenburg in 1949 to establish a trailer court, have caught more than 1000 snakes for commercial use. They supply zoos and sell skins for the manufacture of such articles as belts, neckties, handbags, wall-hangings, etc. They also sell snake oil for \$1 an ounce. The oil fat is rendered over a slow fire and comes out a golden fluid about the consistency of No. 10 motor oil. The oil will penetrate thick shoe leather in 20 minutes. The Lovejoys find that the first 10 days of spring is snake-catching time. Their biggest haul was 48 in two days. The biggest snake was a diamond back rattler five feet ten inches long. In the winter, the Lovejoys trap fur bearing animals.—*Wickenburg Sun*.

### Tombstone's Museum Takes Form

TOMBSTONE—Contributions are pouring in to the historical museum now being organized in Tombstone's historic Schieffelin Hall. Among the many interesting gifts and loans are the contents of the late J. H. Macia's assay office, loaned by his son Lt. Col. Herb Macia. Harry Macia of Los Angeles has contributed a foreman's belt of Tombstone's Protection Fire Company No. 3. Judge Larrieu sent a saddler's vise, or "horse," once used in the J. J. Patton saddle shop in the '80's. Mrs. J. E. "Mom" Larson gave one of the few remaining cloth ceilings, recently removed from a room in her home, formerly owned by Mrs. Lydia Thiel. Other gifts include: fine old photographs, an invitation to the Halderman brothers' hanging, an early vintage typewriter, an ancient phonograph and copies of old publications.—*Tombstone Epitaph*.

### Fort Defiance Marks Century . . .

WINDOW ROCK—Fort Defiance, Arizona, recently observed its 100th anniversary with a parade, pageant and dedication of a monument, built by Navajo stone masons, according to R. E. Briscoe, chairman of the centennial committee. A caravan headed by the Gallup Municipal band led the way. Fort Defiance was established September 18, 1851 by American troops. It is the oldest white community in the area and the oldest fort in Arizona.—*Gallup Independent*.

### Frontier Woman Works Mine . . .

GOLD GULCH—High in the Dos Cabezas mountains a lone woman, Maggy Myers, carries on the mining development started in 1917 by her husband, the late L. T. Myers. Mrs. Myers does all the assessment, tunneling and road work on 24 mining claims. During her husband's lifetime, he stockpiled the ore, combination of gold, silver, copper, lead and manganese and waited for a buyer, refusing to settle for a small gain. In order to keep up the \$100 yearly expense on each claim, the Myers' worked in Bisbee where they raised their four children. They came to Arizona in 1912 with two other families in three covered wagons, encountering Mexican desperados and engaging in gun battles along the way. Mrs. Myers has worked all this spring and summer at the mine while living in a three-room frontier cabin built (of walnut logs and rock) around a one-room cabin that once belonged to Kit Carson.—*San Pedro Valley News*.

### North Ajo Has Rate Problem . . .

AJO — North Ajo businessmen warned the president of the Arizona Edison company today that the community of 12 thousand persons would become a ghost town unless utilities are reduced to match those charged by the Phelps Dodge corporation in Ajo

proper. Reid Gardner, Arizona Edison president, said he would attempt to alter the situation but that final decision is up to the State Corporation Commission.—*Yuma Daily Sun*.

### Varmint Is Still Loose . . .

WINSLOW—Traps set to catch the wolf-dog that has attacked four parties of sleeping campers in recent weeks, have caught a fine assortment of desert critters, including a bob cat, a lynx, a coyote, a dog, a skunk and a porcupine. The object of all this attention remains as free as the desert breezes.—*Coconino Sun*.

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**STONE FACES OF GOBLIN GULCH.** Six gorgeous color slides of fantastic natural stone faces for \$1. (See May 1944 Desert Magazine.) Slides bound in glass ready to project with any standard 2x2 projector. Will C. Minor, Box 62, Fruita, Colorado.

**Washoe Gem and Mineral society** discussed the subject of Opals at their September meeting. Members are planning a hobby show for the near future. One member has just mailed a package of trade rocks to a collector in Bavaria whose collection was lost when his home was bombed during the war.

## New Style Cattle Rustling . . .

**BISBEE** — According to Cochise county attorney, Wes Polley, a full scale assault is being planned against "deep freeze" cattle rustlers in that county. Live stock losses are running as high as 100 a month. The rustlers apparently kill cattle on the spot and cache them for use, or for sale, in deep freeze units.—*Tucson Daily Sun*.

## CALIFORNIA

### Hut Sites Pre-date Others . . .

**CHINA LAKE**—Four buried hut sites, thought to be the oldest human dwelling places, other than caves, thus far discovered in America north of Mexico, were uncovered by the U.C. L.A. archeological expedition near Little Lake at what is known as the Stahl site. M. R. Harrington, curator of the Southwest museum of Los Angeles and leader of the expedition, places the artifacts found there in the early Pinto culture which is more than 3000 years old.—*Rocketeer*.

### "Scotty" Is 79 . . .

**DEATH VALLEY**—Walter (Death Valley Scotty) Scotty marked his 79th birthday September 20 in the Las Vegas Memorial hospital, where he was taken a few days earlier upon advice of his personal physician, Dr. E. Basse Wallace of Las Vegas. Scotty has been in ill health for sometime but preferred to remain in a downstairs bedroom of the famed Castle, attended by his old friend John Boasch of Goldfield. When he failed to improve he agreed with great reluctance to be removed to the Las Vegas hospital. He was driven there by Walter Webb and Mary Liddecoat of the Gospel Foundation of California, which administers the Castle's affairs, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ringe, managers. Scotty's last public appearance was June 2 when he participated in ceremonies officially opening Highway 72, known as the Scotty Castle road. Beloved by all who know him, Scotty has long been one of the most colorful personalities of the Far West. He came to the Valley as a water boy for a group of surveyors in the '80's. In 1904, he met the late A. A. Johnson. The two men became lifelong friends and associates, building the fabulous Castle in Grapevine canyon 20 years ago. Scotty has lived alone at his ranch below the Castle although he has appeared during dinner time to regale awestruck Castle visitors with earthy tales of his experiences in the early West. His friends the world over wish him speedy recovery from his present illness.—*Goldfield News*.

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### Another First Makes History . . .

**SHOSHONE** — History was made at 12:15 a.m. on August 31, 1951 when the first white child to be born at Shoshone arrived a bit ahead of schedule. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Humseld lost the night race with the stork enroute from their home near Tecopa to the Death Valley hospital. A hurried phone call to the hospital brought nurse Mae Dorville over the desert sands in time to deliver the six pound David Wilhelm Humseld in first class condition.—*Inyo Independent*.

### Nacionales Arrive in Valley . . .

**IMPERIAL** — Under the recently completed international labor agreement, the first group of 60 thousand Mexican farm laborers, recruited from the interior of Mexico and scheduled to work on farms in seven western states, arrived in Imperial during the early part of September.—*Yuma Daily Sun*.

### Colorado River Mends Its Way . . .

**NEEDLES**—The Bureau of Reclamation has put an end to the meandering of the Colorado and to the flood hazard caused by the river's unpredictable manner with a twelve mile stretch of new channel 200 feet wide and 17 feet deep between Needles, California and Topock, Arizona. Nearly 9 million cubic yards of silt and debris were excavated by a specially built suction dredge, "The Colorado," pumped through the vessel's pipeline, and deposited along the new channel's banks to form a protective levee.—*Caliente Herald*.

### NEVADA

### Dam Does Rushing Business . . .

**BOULDER CITY**—The four millionth visitor was expected to pass through the elevator gates of famed

Hoover Dam between October 10 and 15. Meantime, for the first time in history, the number of visitors to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area is expected to exceed 2,000,000 for the travel year.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

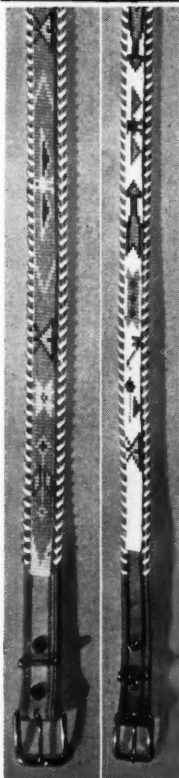
### Don't Scare a Snake . . .

**LAS VEGAS**—According to Dayton herpetologists, the fear of snakes is not instinctive. A baby will fondle a garter snake just as readily as it will a puppy. But a frightened mother, rushing to rescue her child from the harmless snake, can cause a life-time fear. Just as most people fear snakes, the snakes themselves fear people. They strike in self defense. If you wish to avoid snakes, don't pull up loose boards, rocks or logs around damp places. A surprised snake has the advantage.—*Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

### By Any Other Name, It's Pahrump

**PAHRUMP** — Postmaster Marie Spencer says that postmasters and mail clerks must be psychic to correctly handle mail addressed to Pahrump. It arrives with the following misspellings: Packrump, Parump, Pairump, Pakrump, Pahump, Pawrump, Pah-umph, Parumph, Paehrump, Pihrump, Phrump, Paraump. Some folks even spell it Pahrump!—*Goldfield News*.

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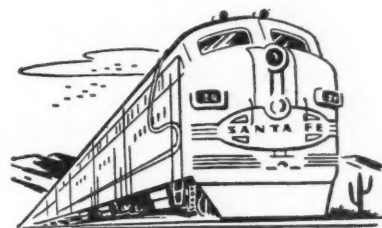
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### Fort Knox Fugitive Found . . .

TONOPAH—Philip Meyers, who with his brother Lou and Sheriff Bill Thomas, have been engaged in development of tungsten property in the Millett mining district this past year, while cleaning up an early day cabin site found a five dollar gold piece buried in the debris of half a century. The coin was as bright as the day it was minted in 1882, about the time of the mining boom in this locale. Meyers plans to have it made into a good luck charm.—*Times-Bonanza*.

### Another Gold Mine Vanishes . . .

LAS VEGAS—The wild west still occasionally produces a gold mine swindle. Las Vegas realtor, H. W. Parker recently testified before the justice court that Edward C. Collins, a stranger, producing a poke of gold ore and saying "there's plenty more where that came from," obtained money to back his gold mine which he claimed had a vein a foot wide. Collins then quietly left town. The mine seems to have vanished with him. — *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

### White Elephant Awakens . . .

HENDERSON — Nevada's \$140,000,000 white elephant, the gigantic chemical plant, which produced over a fourth of all the magnesium used for incendiary bombs and other purposes during the war by all the allies, and which was suddenly shut down in 1944, is struggling to its feet again. Virtually all the plant units have been leased under five-year options to a large number of concerns. Robert J. Moore, a former field artillery colonel is managing the property for the state. Stauffer Chemical company is producing chlorine; Western Electrochemical company is producing potassium perchlorate; National Lead company and Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation, joint owners of Titanium Metals corporation of America, are ready to become the world's largest producers of titanium. Eleven hundred persons are now employed. — *Los Angeles Times*.

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### Newlyweds Run Colorado . . .

**BOULDER CITY**—Two Neoprene 10-man army-navy life rafts left Green River, Wyoming, July 1 and arrived at Pierce ferry at the upper end of Lake Mead on Labor Day. The skip-pers were honeymooners Dick and Isabelle Griffith of Fort Collins, Colorado and John Schlump of Laramie, Wyoming. In the mile-deep section of the canyon the trio weathered a severe storm. According to Mrs. Griffith, the dark stretch of bad water in Lodore canyon was the worst spot encountered. Schlump was tossed into the river at Bed Rock rapid but swam and floated on through the rapid with no injury except to his camera. The party spent part of the time on explorative side trips and hikes to the top of the inner gorge. — *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

### Lehman Caves Draw Tourists . . .

**BAKER**—The Lehman Caves National Monument, underlying Wheeler Peak, Nevada's highest mountain, 60 miles southeast of Ely and 10 miles off U. S. Highway 6, are now visited by about 20,000 tourists a year. John Fielding, guide who has been showing visitors through the caverns since 1942, thinks the most unusual feature of the wierd formations along a 1500 foot trail is "music hall" where the stalagmites and stalactites, when struck, produce perfect musical tones. — *Battle Mountain Scout*.

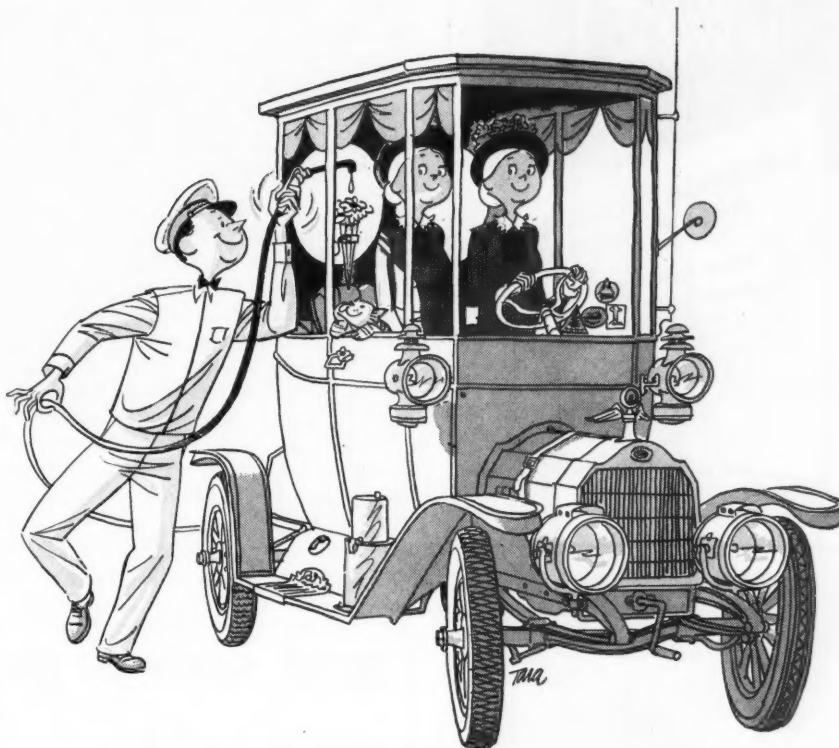
### War Games at Frenchman Flat . . .

**LAS VEGAS** — The Army's first atomic war games got under way in October at the Atomic Energy Commission's Frenchman Flat proving ground with troops from the nation's six army areas participating. Though Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Swing, commander of the Sixth Army, refused to discuss "Exercise Desert Rock," it has been unofficially reported that guided missiles and artillery shells with atomic warheads are being used. General Swing said that infantry men participating in the historic maneuvers are recruited from the 11th Airborne Division, which he commanded during World War II. Artillery, tank, engineers and supply units are drawn from other Army groups. General Mark Clark, former commander of the Sixth Army, with other high brass, was expected to arrive in Las Vegas to attend the maneuvers. — *Yuma Daily Sun*.

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**NEW MEXICO**

**Five Million Visit Caves . . .**

CARLSBAD: Sergeant Delmas B. Clark, a radar mechanic from Biggs Air Force Base, was the 5,000,000th visitor to enter Carlsbad Caverns. Clark was taken entirely by surprise when Superintendent Hoskins tapped him on the shoulder and said, "You are Mr. Five Million."—*Eddy County News*.

**Park Man Moves to Chaco . . .**

CLARKDALE—Roland S. Richert, national park service archeologist at Tuzigoot national monument since 1946, has been transferred to specialized work at Chaco Canyon national monument in north-central New Mexico. Richert's new work will not be confined to the Chaco monument, though it is one of the best examples of pueblo civilization. Some of his work will be done at Wupatki. He will have charge of ruins stabilization with a crew of Navajo workmen and

will work under archeologist Gordon Vivian. The Chaco Canyon monument has 18 major ruins, the largest of which is Pueblo Bonito, consisting of 1000 rooms and 30 or more kivas. It housed 1200 people.—*Verde Independent*.

**Religious Garb Is Banned . . .**

SANTA FE — New Mexico's supreme court has banned the wearing of "religious garb" in public schools of the state but has specifically avoided barring all sisters and nuns from teaching in such institutions. Only those who "teach religion" have been barred. Following the lower court's decision, all teaching brothers and sisters were voluntarily removed by Archbishop Edwin V. Byrne of Santa Fe.—*Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

**Shiprock Plan Goes to Congress . . .**

ALBUQUERQUE—Colorado River Commissioner Fred E. Wilson states that the next Congress will be asked

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AND OF THE GOOD THINGS FOLKS HAVE SAID ABOUT US: "Of lively interest to readers of Western history"—Paul Jordan-Smith, Los Angeles Times . . . "Should be known to every lover of the Old West. Fast assuming a rather important place in chronicling the folklore of the desert"—Robert O. Foote, Pasadena Star-News . . . "Of great interest not only now but to future students of Western history"—Mrs. Rogers Parratt, Director, California Historical Society . . . "Your magazine is great, and you can quote me any way!"—Harry Oliver, Desert Rat Scrap Book.

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to give preliminary authorization to the proposed Shiprock irrigation project, which by a series of controlling dams along the upper Colorado and its tributaries would control and regulate flow of the river and provide hydroelectric power and irrigation for northwestern New Mexico. A transmountain diversion project also is proposed which would channel the Shiprock impounded waters of the San Juan river via tunnels and canals to the Rio Grande. Some San Juan County residents oppose this latter use of the San Juan water and want to enlarge the Shiprock plan to use all the 800,000 acre-feet of water to which New Mexico is entitled under the original compact.—*Gallup Independent*.

#### Dobbin Has to Get Off Strip . . .

GALLUP—The municipal airport has a horse problem. Landing airliners apparently are of no concern to the stray horses that roam the air field but equines on the runway are frowned upon by harried pilots. Until the surrounding fence lines are repaired, which will be immediately, according to Allen Rollie, chairman of the airport committee, local gendarmes will check for four-footed hazards prior to scheduled landings. — *Gallup Independent*.

AZTEC—Ten oil wells were completed in San Juan county recently, making a total of 51 working wells. Nine new locations have been made. Among the operating companies are Stanolind Oil and Gas Co., Danube Oil Co., Potash Co. of America, Delhi Oil Corp., Benson and Montin, and El Paso Natural Gas. — *Aztec Independent*.

#### UTAH

#### Too Much Fire-Water . . .

BLUFF — Too much liquor is blamed for a near-uprising of Ute Indians which threatened the peace of this community recently. Some of the Utes have been disgruntled for some time over the limited range allotted to them for their livestock. The range situation became acute as a result of prolonged drouth. Three hundred of the tribesmen with some Navajos were holding a squaw dance when word

reached peace officers that liquor was being bootlegged in to the Indian camp. When Sheriff Tully R. Harcey and Highway Patrolman Merlin Brown went to the scene of the dance and arrested the bootlegger, they were surrounded with an angry mob of Indians who told them to get out of camp. To avoid bloodshed the officers left. The next day when the Indians had sobered up they returned to their herds and further trouble was averted. — *Las Vegas Journal-Review*.

#### Utah's Symphony Season Opens . . .

SALT LAKE — The 12th annual concert series of the Utah Symphony which opens the 1951-52 season is stirring unprecedented advance ticket sales, according to David S. Romney, managing director. Utah's popular conductor, Maurice Abravanel, announces the greatest array of guest artists in the history of the organization.—*Iron County Record*.

#### Salt Lake Rises Again . . .

SALT LAKE CITY — Great Salt Lake, the nation's largest inland sea, has reached its highest level in nearly 20 years. Saltair, widely-known resort area on the southeast edge of the lake, was left dry as lake waters receded a decade ago. In 1940 a specially built train took resort bathers to water only a few inches deep. The resort, built on 2500 piles driven into the lake bottom, has again been surrounded by water. Under the pavilion it is five feet deep.—*Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

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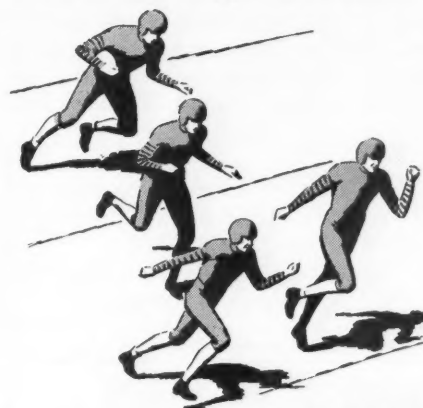
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### Dinosaur Statue Is Offered . . .

VERNAL—Dr. Avarad Fairbanks, Dean of the University of Utah Art department has offered his services gratis for the creation of a life-size dinosaur statue to be placed on the lawn of the Utah Field House of Natural History. Director of the museum, Ernest Untermann, estimates that the project would require \$10,000 but

that the same work, if commissioned and paid for at full price would require a fee of at least \$50,000. "Vernal is being offered an opportunity to secure the work of an outstanding sculptor for a fee which amounts to a gift," Untermann explained. It is hoped that the State legislature will supply the special fund for the project in the 1953 session.—*Vernal Express*.

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PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

### Four States Draft Water Bill . . .

DENVER—Upper Colorado River commissioners from four states are working on a bill to be introduced to Congress authorizing the multi-billion dollar storage project on the upper reaches of the river system. The bill would be jointly sponsored by Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming. The project, by a series of dams and reservoirs, would create a storage of 75 million acres of water each 10 years for the lower basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada. —*Salt Lake Tribune*.

### Six Conquer Rapids . . .

VERNAL—After a week's battle against boulder-strewn rapids of the Green River, six persons arrived at the lower end of Split Mountain Gorge in Dinosaur National Monument in mid-September. Because of the low stage of water, progress was slower and more hazardous than in high water stages. Leading the party were Sgt. A. K. Reynolds of Green River and Sgt. Bill Bonnett of Rawlins. Members of the party were Joseph Desloges, Sr., St. Louis, Missouri; Arthur Hoskins, St. Louis; Miss Zoe Desloges and Miss Marie Saalfrank. Cataract boats were used.—*Vernal Express*.

SALT LAKE — Procurement of final right-of-way agreements is all that stands in the way of construction of the million dollar six-mile highway from Lagoon past Kaysville to Layton, D. H. Whittenburg, State Road Commission chairman, states. This stretch of highway will be the state's most extensive project on the year's program. —*Salt Lake Tribune*.

### Mineral Leases Pay Off . . .

SALT LAKE—Utah's mineral land leasing which has shown an upsurge in recent months paid off last September in the form of a \$400,000 check from the United States to the Utah State Treasury. The payment represented the state's share of 37 percent of all sums collected by the U. S. Bureau of Land Management between January 1 and June 30. The money is paid in lieu of taxes which might be levied by the state if the government owned lands were transferred to private ownership. Lands in Uintah County brought the largest returns. —*Salt Lake Tribune*.

### Olympus May Become Monument

SALT LAKE—John E. Kell, Santa Fe, New Mexico, official of National Parks Service, recently headed a group of six mountain climbers and explorers who made an on-the-ground inspection of Mount Olympus, picturesque peak of the Wasatch range in southeast Salt Lake county to determine whether the area will become a national monument. Last year much publicity was given the near tragedy of three university students who were trapped in the cave under Olympus. They were rescued by rope at the 1200 foot level.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

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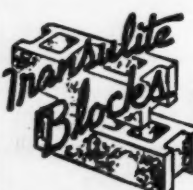
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### ANSWERS TO DESERT QUIZ

Questions are on page 14

- 1—Palm tree.
- 2—Mining.
- 3—Topock.
- 4—U. S. Commissioner of Reclamation.
- 5—Navajo Bridge.
- 6—Flower—Fiddleneck phacelia.
- 7—Mojaves.
- 8—Highway 60.
- 9—Utah.
- 10—Hopis.
- 11—California.
- 12—Agate.
- 13—Monument Valley.
- 14—Mullett.
- 15—Food for the Hopis.
- 16—Leader of the first party to navigate the Colorado River through Grand Canyon.
- 17—Fray Marcos de Niza.
- 18—Turquoise.
- 19—Rio Grande River.
- 20—Woodpecker.



# Gems and Minerals

## ROCKHOUND HUNTS IN CONGO LAND

George Burnam of Monrovia, California, recently returned from Africa, bringing with him some magnificent specimens of green diopside crystals. Says Burnam, "Well known to collectors is the fact that some very fine diopside is found in the Belgian Congo. Because of the security measures currently in effect over uranium deposits there, it is almost impossible to obtain diopside specimens. Our disappointment was complete until we heard of another deposit of these crystals in French Equatorial Africa. My air schedule was changed to include a stop at Brazzaville on the bank of the Congo River, where I spent a week in hot, humid weather making preparation for a safari to the diopside locality. We went by pickup truck until we were stopped by a crocodile infested river. From this point we proceeded on foot through coarse elephant grass taller than a man. Native women carried the rock loot back to the truck."

## HIDDEN CAVE IS SCENE OF LECTURE

The Fallon Rock and Gem club enjoyed a most unusual evening in September when Norman Roust and Gordon Grosscup, who have been exploring Hidden Cave under supervision of the geological survey for the University of California, took them on a trip to the cave. Roust, in his lecture by the campfire at the mouth of the cave, stated that Nevada is a gold mine to the archeologist searching for connecting links of past civilizations. Hidden Cave has produced evidence of human habitation dating back 10 thousand years. Due to desert conditions, artifacts are in a fine state of preservation. After a spaghetti dinner served at the foot of the mountain, Roust talked on the development of man. Hidden Cave is closed to the public.

## SACRAMENTO MINERAL SOCIETY SCHEDULES FALL SHOW

Co-chairmen John Baierlein and Raulin Silveira announce that the fall show, November 3 and 4, at Turn Verein Hall, 3349 Jay, will be the largest ever attempted by the Sacramento Mineral society. The J. B. Nichols trophy will be awarded for the first time for the best exhibit. Other events include working exhibits by members, dealer participation with displays of specimens, lapidary material, finished products and jewelry for sale, movies and door prizes. The show is free and the public is invited.

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## ROCKHOUNDS DISCOVER INDIAN PLAYGROUND

Several months ago an unidentified man, looking for stray horses, reported to Thomas Forsythe, student of Indian Lore, the discovery of some unusual ancient trails around a mound rising from the flat range land four miles east of Modena in southern Utah. In turn, Forsythe gave the information to Wilford Lawrence and William Flannigan, rockhounds of Cedar City, who with Kent Myers, student at Branch Agricultural college made an exploration trip. The trails around the hundred-foot-high hill are obviously part of an ancient Indian foot race track. A natural amphitheatre with seating capacity of 2 or 3 thousand overlooking a well-defined sports arena in the flats below, bore evidence of highly organized sports events of tribes that roamed the area more than five hundred years ago.—*Iron County Record.*

## CHILDREN SELL ORE FOR NEW SCHOOL

Eighty tons of gold ore have been donated to the school children of Cripple Creek, Colorado who offer to sell it anywhere in the U. S. for \$1 a "chunk." Money will be used to finance a new school. Letters should be sent to Cripple Creek School Fund, Cripple Creek, Colorado.

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## AMONG THE ROCK HUNTERS

At a recent meeting of the San Diego Lapidary society, Maxine Scott, certified gemologist, talked on Synthetic in Gemology. She said that synthetics are to be admired and bought by those who cannot afford genuine gems. Corundum was the first synthetic stone made.

Earth Science club of Illinois scheduled for its opening program of the coming season a talk by Guy Spiesman, who has recently returned from a trip through the southwest desert and mountain regions with a group of archeologists.

At the County Fair staged by employees of Twentieth Century-Fox, Suzanne Ravise of the Hollywood Lapidary society, was awarded the green ribbon for her lapidary display.

Of the 92 elements occurring in nature, 10 were discovered before the time of Christ: carbon, copper, gold, iron, lead, mercury, silver, sulfur, tin and zinc. Only four were added to this list before the birth of George Washington in 1732: arsenic, antimony, bismuth and phosphorus. Platinum and cobalt were discovered in 1735 and all the rest since that date.

San Diego Mineral and Gem society held its fourteenth annual show in the Spanish Village, Balboa Park, September 29-30. Four buildings and a large patio were used for displays.

Whittier Gem and Mineral society held its second annual show, October 20-21 at the York Riding Club House.

According to the *Voice* of the El Paso Rockhounds, Emil Frie, a member has produced one of the finest and smoothest running faceting laps ever seen. He used two Chevy connecting rods, a piece of washing machine wringer roller, a piece of half-inch pipe, a sheet of half-inch lucite, a sleeve-bearing grinding arbor and a 1/10 h.p. motor. His design does away with all belts and many other accessories.

The diamonds from Inverell, New South Wales are considerably harder than those from South Africa, making it impractical to cut them into gems, thus making it necessary to use them for industrial purposes.

"Crystals and Their Inclusions" was the subject of the illustrated talk by Arthur Terry, past president of the Los Angeles Gem Cutters Guild, at a recent meeting of the Santa Monica Gemological society. Mrs. Paul H. Walker reported on the Tacoma convention and C. E. Hamilton told of his field trip to Flintridge, Ohio. Starting in October, overnight field trips to desert locations were resumed. Meetings are held in Miles Playhouse, Lincoln Park, Santa Monica, the second Thursday of each month.

**ARIZONA AGATE MINES** will go under new management this fall. We will have more help, more stock, newly mined Arizona Agates in the brightest colors, faster service, expert gem cutting and finest hand made solid sterling silver mountings. (7) seven mixed slices of Arizona Agates \$5.00 post paid. Sample slices \$1.00 each. New listings should be printed by October. Arizona Agate Mines, Cave Creek, Arizona.

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San Jose Lapidary society's bulletin reports a 10,600-mile trailer jaunt through Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah by Maxine and Charles Murphy, energetic rockhounds.

Emrie L. Harman, editor of Kern County Mineral society's bulletin, reports that a piece of jadeite which he brought back from the recently discovered jadeite deposit in San Benito county, has been cut and polished by Luther Godby and is exceptionally beautiful.

The following groups have been admitted to the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological societies this year: Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, secretary, J. E. Farr, 5401 Webster Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois; Geode Rocks and Minerals society of Southeastern Iowa, president, E. N. Smith, New London, Iowa; Fort Randall Gemites, secretary, Loraine Wilcox, Box 227, Pickstown, South Dakota; Rochester Earth Science society, president, Dana Rogers, 820 10 1/2 St., S. W. Rochester, Minnesota; St. Louis Mineral and Gem society, secretary, Mrs. Theodore Roente, 4980 Neosho St., St. Louis 9, Missouri; Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals society, secretary, Kay Koestner, 369 19th St., Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Member groups may wish to exchange bulletins or correspond.

The Orange Belt Mineralogical society will hold its 5th Annual Gem and Mineral Show in conjunction with the National Orange Show, November 3-4 in San Bernardino, California. The exhibit will be in the Industrial Building.

There are three ways to locate the star in asteriated quartz: (1) by making a sphere of the material; (2) by immersion in a liquid that has the same index of refraction; (3) by the use of polarized light.

For the sixth straight year, A. L. Flagg, past president of both the Mineralogical society of Arizona and the Rocky Mountain Federation, is serving as superintendent of minerals at the Arizona State Fair, November 3-12. Junior rockhounds will compete for the Phelps-Dodge trophy which becomes the property of the winning school during the year it is earned. In addition to permanent and competitive exhibits, there will be a fluorescent display.

According to Gladys Mulford, secretary of the Newaukum Rockhounds, Chehalis, Washington, the group recently held a wiener roast over a fire of red cedar that had been covered by lava during the Miocene age—10-30,000,000 years ago.

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Petoskey Agates of Michigan and other midwestern states are not agates at all but fossilized corals resembling agates. They are composed chiefly of limestone.

The Chicago Rocks and Minerals society recently has become a contributing member of the National Parks Association, founded in 1919. It is the hope of the society that other earth science groups will follow their lead and take similar action toward actively supporting the National Parks Association.

Paradise Gem and Mineral club of Paradise, California, reports via S. R. Snyder, secretary, that the group is now more than 80 strong and that they have purchased some new lapidary equipment. Summer field trips included all the northern counties and several trips to Cedarville and Fallon areas. The Paradise Fall Festival and Apple Show in October gave an entire wing to the club's display.

The Austin Gem and Mineral society of Austin, Texas, will sponsor its first show in the Exhibit Room of the Austin Public Library, November 10 and 11 from 1 P.M. until 9 P.M. on Saturday and from 1 P.M. until 6 P.M. on Sunday. President Emil H. Spillman extends a cordial invitation to all rockhounds.

Delvers Gem and Mineral society of Downey, California, recently heard a talk by Mrs. Clark on "Rare Petrified Woods of the World."

San Antonio Rock and Lapidary society reports that: Picnic at Terrell Wells was attended by 30; Mr. and Mrs. J. Spencer Baen vacationed in Fort Knox, Ky., Raymond and Marguerite Rock visited all the northern states, and that all vacationing rockhounds are bringing home fine specimens for winter discussions.

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Olaf P. Jenkins, chief of the Division of Mines, announces that the Rincon pegmatites, gem-bearing rocks of southern California, are the subject matter of the division's newest report, Special Report 7-B, written by John B. Hanley, member of the U. S. Geological Survey staff. The Rincon



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pegmatite dikes, exposed in the San Luis Rey River Valley about 40 miles northeast of San Diego, contain the only known deposits of gem beryl, kunzite, and gem tourmaline in the district. The report priced at 35c (3 percent sales tax in California) may be ordered from the California Division of Mines, Ferry Building, San Francisco, 11, California.

Oscar Branson, Albuquerque collector and certified gemologist spoke to the Santa Fe Gem and Mineral club in September on "How I Collect Gem Stones." He illustrated the talk with specimens collected in this country and in Mexico.

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### PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY HAS FIRST HAND-SET BULLETIN

The Pasadena Lapidary society, organized by Leland Quick in 1948 and incorporated in 1949, claims to have the first hand-set and hand-printed lapidary society bulletin in the great Southwest. An amusing note is on the back page of the first issue. Quote: This could very well be the last as well as the first issue of this small bulletin. The printer feels he is doing his part by hand-setting and doing the printing. You will have to dig up and bring, mail or phone him the subject matter. Rebel Press, SY 2-0412 or Box 1122 M, Pasadena 1, California. Unquote.

Competing with older and more active mineral societies of Riverside county, the newly organized three-months-old Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral society, with 137 members, won second prize and a cash award of \$25 at the Hemet Farmers Festival in September. The exhibit, made up of selected specimens from the collections of club members in Coachella, Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indio and Palm Desert, nosed out the highly favored San Geronimo Gem and Mineral society of Banning-Baumont for second place.

At the regular September meeting of the Dona Ana County Rockhound club of Las Cruces, New Mexico, the following officers were elected to serve the year out, due to resignations of several officers: W. A. Brookreson, vice-president; A. E. Archer, treasurer; Mrs. Eva Henderson, historian. Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Scarbrough served an outdoor covered dish dinner to members. Wade and Mary Brookreson have recently returned from a motor trip through the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Heghinian of Pacific Mineral Society, Inc., Los Angeles, visited the office of Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral societies while on a vacation-collecting trip through the Rocky Mountains and the Royal Gorge area in September.

Chicago Rocks and Minerals society held the first fall meeting at Green Briar Park Field House. Movies of the Canadian Northwest were shown by William E. Zimmer. On September 16, the society held a field trip to the Rock Creek-Kankakee River area. Dr. Frank L. Fleener, geologist, was guide and lecturer.

William H. Swett, of Imlay, Nevada, has recently discovered a deposit of rare black and white agate. The find was made in a dike of geodes on the east slope of Star Peak in Pershing County about 12 miles from Mill City, Nevada. About 50 feet wide at its widest point, the dike extends for a distance of approximately 2000 feet. According to Swett, some of the geodes measure more than a foot across and weigh 150 pounds or more. Some are solid black and others have alternate bands of black and white. He describes the stones as having excellent possibilities for gem cutting. Also found in the deposit were quantities of black quartz.

Some bones of a mammoth of the Pleistocene epoch were unearthed by members of the Yavapai County Archeological society on a field trip to the Walnut Creek area, led by Aubrey Gist of Prescott. In the party of 21 were Dr. Charles A. Anderson, Dr. Medora H. Krieger and Professor Edwin D. McKee, all of the U. S. Geological Survey department.



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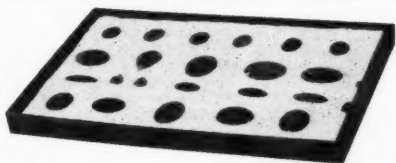
The Minnesota Mineral club planned a September field trip to Grand Marais for a rock hunt in the North Shore area. Officers of the club are: Art Hedlund, president; Mrs. Carrie Heller, vice-president; Mrs. Maud Kelley, secretary; Jack Flood, treasurer; Dee Thomas, program director; Mrs. Emma Cooper, tour director; and Joe Heininger, publicity director. The club proposed a trip in October to see Father Doberstein's grotto at West Bend, Iowa. The grotto is built of rocks from over all the world.

When photographing colorless crystals, such as quartz, a plain black background is best, as any other color is apt to reflect in the crystal. A contrasting, complementary color is best for colored crystals.

The Gila Valley Gem and Mineral society met in the Thatcher Town Hall after its summer holiday to discuss plans for winter activities. The club is collecting a fine library of pertinent books and magazines.

According to the SMH Matrix, the term "rare earth minerals" is somewhat misleading. Neither the minerals nor their rare earth constituents are as scarce as they were once supposed to be in the early days of chemistry. Very probably the invention of an incandescent gas mantle by Auer Von Welsbach in 1890, was largely responsible for the stimulation of commercial utilization of the rare earth metals. While the gas mantles were made of thorium oxide, it was found that about one percent of cerium oxide (a rare earth compound) was needed to increase luminosity. Commercial utilization of the rare earths declined following the invention of the electric light. However, new needs have developed.

According to J. E. Farr who writes in *Earth Science News*, half the precious stone species belong to the sapphire group. There are four gems classified as precious and two of them include the sapphires, one being the gem we mean when we say "sapphire" and the other being the red sapphire which we call the ruby. The sapphire is crystal corundum or aluminum oxide. It usually occurs as an accessory mineral in crystalline rock. Those colored other than blue are called fancy sapphires. The names of fancy sapphires are modified to such names as Oriental Emerald, Ruby, Golden Sapphire, Oriental Topaz, etc. Most precious of all is the Kashmir, the velvety cornflower blue gem from India.



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R. M. Addison of the San Jose Lapidary society was scheduled to speak to the Gem and Mineral society of San Mateo county on The Fundamentals of Jewelry Making, during September. Addison is known for his cameos sculptured on King Hemet shells, imported from the Mediterranean.

The world's largest deep blue Topaz was found in San Diego county.

Coachella Valley Mineral society ended its summer season with a picnic at Salton Sea. Hugh Proctor, chairman of the incorporation committee, reported that the constitution and by-laws are almost ready for incorporation of the club. New committee chairmen appointed were: George Smith, field trip; Martha Danner, program; Dorothy Faulhaber, membership; Jane Walker, finance; Erva Smith, social, Florence Dutton, reception, and Christina Danner, properties. Glen Vargas and Martha Danner will teach rockology classes in the night school program at Coachella Valley Union High School.

While teaching American children in Japan, Glady Davis of the Sacramento Mineral society, collected set and unset stones of jade, coral, ivory, quartz crystals and also cultured pearls. Her rockhunting trips were mostly to the shops in Kyoto.

For the second time, Ernest E. Michael has been elected president of the Yavapai Gem and Mineral society of Prescott, Arizona. He succeeded Roy Kuntz. Michael is a recognized authority on gems and minerals of Yavapai county. His personal rock and seashell collection is outstanding.

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Two events of importance to Southern California's earth science groups were held the last two days of September. The San Diego Mineral and Gem society held its 14th annual show in the Spanish Village of Balboa Park, San Diego and the Compton Gem and Mineral society sponsored the Rockhound Fair at Compton. Outstanding collections were exhibited to attending crowds at both shows.

*Gritner's Geode*, published in Mesa, Arizona reports that rare sand spikes are to be found at the base of Signal Mountain, near the California-Mexico line out of El Centro.



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# AMATEUR GEM CUTTER

By LELANDE QUICK, Editor of The Lapidary Journal

If societies wish to have something around with which to highlight publicity for their shows next year, it might be wise to get their names on the list right now for an item of top interest. A 1318 carat sapphire head of Abraham Lincoln has been carved for Kazanjian Brothers of Los Angeles and they can be addressed at 220 West 5th Street.

The Lincoln head is to tour the country soon and we are not certain that the Kazanjians will look with favor upon the idea of showing this unique piece at rockhound gatherings. However, they have been generous indeed in displaying their collection of the largest star sapphires in the world at many gem and mineral shows sponsored by earth science organizations and perhaps they will be glad to display other treasures in sapphire as they develop. Many people will remember seeing at shows their "Star of Queensland" the largest star sapphire in the world. This was cut from one of the five largest sapphires ever found . . . all of them owned by the Kazanjians.

James and Harry were poor boys of Armenian descent and they have prospered greatly in the last few years. We remember them 20 years ago when they made a gold ring for us set with Russian lapis lazuli—in our own pre-cutting days. They gave the small order as much attention as if it was a commission from a king and the whole job cost us less than \$20. It was a big job to them at the time and big money to us for 20 years ago \$20 was hard to get.

When they acquired the five large sapphires from Australia they immediately had a desire to do something with them in which all the people of America could share. So they conceived the idea of making one of them into the largest star sapphire known and they reserved the other four pieces for a "Great Americans in Sapphire" series. The Lincoln head is the first of the series and the next will be a head of Andrew Jackson. "Lincoln and Jackson were always our particular heroes" said James, when the completed work was first shown September 25. James believes that Jackson, more than any other American, stood for the real spirit of American opportunity for all. The third head will be George Washington and then the last remaining sapphire will be carved into a likeness of Henry Ford, believed by the owners to represent the best symbol of initiative in our day.

The Lincoln carving was done by Norman Maness over a period of two years. Maness closely followed the advice of Dr. Merrell Gage, sculptor and Lincoln authority. Dr. Gage is widely known for his lecture on Lincoln, delivered while cleverly molding a head of Lincoln in clay. He received his training from Gutzon Borglum, who created the head of Lincoln in the Mount Rushmore Memorial.

This page of Desert Magazine is for those who have, or aspire to have, their own gem cutting and polishing equipment. Leland Quick, who edits "The Lapidary Journal," will be glad to answer all questions in connection with your lapidary work. And he would like details about new short cuts or devices which lapidary workers have discovered, to pass on to readers. Queries and information should be addressed to Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, California.

Maness started the work November 7, 1949, and completed the final polishing September 20, 1951. The rind of the rough sapphire (weighing 2302 carats at the beginning) was first "peeled" away with diamond grit. At each stage of the grinding, casts were taken for future reference. When the rough head was achieved the carver began chiseling in the features with tiny wheels 1/64" in diameter. A crack developed near the nose after months of labor and the whole face had to be done again.

The head is a beautiful likeness of Lincoln. In our humble opinion it is too beautiful. Lincoln, in this portraiture, looks too much like a well-fed benevolent grandfather contemplating how many millions he will leave each of ten grand children. He hasn't the character you immediately see in his head as it appears on a cent. This is the handsomest Lincoln we have ever seen. However, there is no doubt about it—you know it's Lincoln when you look at the sapphire.

Like the "Star of Queensland," the Lincoln sapphire is black and that greatly detracts from the magic of the word "sapphire" as everyone will suppose it is a rich corn flower blue. One news reporter used the phrase "with a few indistinguishable touches of deep translusion blue." He meant translucent blue of course and from what we have seen of the Kazanjian sapphires the blue is indeed indistinguishable.

Many people have been disappointed upon first seeing the black star sapphires to note that they were not blue but about like obsidian. It follows that many will be disappointed in a black Lincoln just as they have been with a very dark green (almost black) jade Thunder.

The value set upon the piece is \$250,000 but \$200 a carat is a little high for black sapphire it seems to us. The weight of the piece is about 9 1/3 ounces, or 1318 carats converted to avoirdupois. That too will be a big let-down to unthinking people who will go to view it expecting something as large as the Lincoln statue at his Memorial in Washington.

An odd circumstance in the affair is that Norman Maness is not a lapidary. He is a carpenter turned steel engraver because of a war injury and he was persuaded to tackle this job just because it was an experiment. No one had ever done it before and there was no past experience to refer to.

The Lincoln head in sapphire is a magnificent accomplishment and a great unselfish gesture if it is made available to the view of all the people. We repeat—get your name on the list now for this piece breathes publicity for any gem show.

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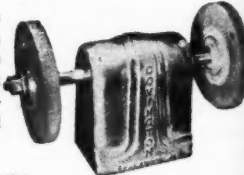
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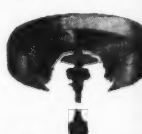
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## BOOK

### SKIPPER COLORADO

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# BOOKS OF THE SOUTHWEST . . .

## SKIPPER OF THE FIRST COLORADO RIVER EXPEDITION

John Wesley Powell in 1869 led the first river expedition over and through the treacherous rapids of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. It was a hazardous feat, accompanied by such extreme hardship that three members of the expedition left the boats and climbed out of the canyon before the journey was completed.

For his courage as a pioneer in the exploration of the West, Major Powell has been given fine recognition by the historians of the West. But not many of this generation know that Powell also was one of the top scientists of his day, and that he played a major role in establishing the federal land policies for the development of western United States.

It has remained for William Culp Darrah in *Powell of the Colorado*, published this year to tell the complete story of Major Powell's contribution to America. Darrah has done a masterly task in research to complete this highly informative biography.

Joseph Powell, father of the explorer, was a tailor by trade and a preacher by profession. He wanted his boy to be a minister — and it was closely akin to heresy when his oldest son, Wesley, chose science rather than theology as his chief interest. The father was never completely reconciled, although there was never a complete break in the family relations.

When the civil war came, Wesley Powell helped organize an artillery battery, and rose to the rank of captain. He lost an arm in the battle of Shiloh. But his physical handicap could not restrain a spirit so daring, and when the war was over Powell secured financial backing from Illinois colleges to make exploring trips into the West for scientific studies. He climbed mountains and navigated rivers—often going unarmed into the camps of Indians who were believed to be hostile to the encroaching white men.

The navigation of the Colorado through Grand Canyon was Powell's own idea, and he worked long and hard to secure the financing and the equipment for the expedition. Having conquered the toughest river on the North American continent and acquired an intimate knowledge of the resources of the West, he turned his attention to Washington in an effort to secure legislation which would bring about an orderly settlement of western lands—and a fair deal for the Indian

tribal domains which were being invaded by miners and stockmen and farmers.

In March, 1881, Powell, known to millions of Americans as the Major, took the oath of office as director of the United States Geological Survey, and this agency under his direction assumed a leading role in the development of America's natural resources. There had appeared on the frontier, men who sought to plunder the wealth of the public lands, just as they have been seeking to do during all the intervening years. Powell had the vision to see this danger, and the integrity to combat it at every opportunity. He fought for the rights of the common citizen — sponsoring more equitable homestead laws.

While associated with the U. S. Geological Survey, he also was director of the Bureau of Ethnology, and in that position he was a consistent defender of the rights of the Indians, whom he had learned to know intimately during his exploring years.

This book is well written, readable, and highly informative—a book about

men and government at the period when the United States was expanding westward and in the process of becoming the great nation it is today.

Published by Princeton University Press, 1951, 426 pp. Index. Halftone illustrations, \$6.00.

## Tales of Yuma, Arizona . . .

Yuma, Arizona today is a modern, healthful city whose people work and play under the desert sun. But it was not always so. Yuma's story, from roaring camp of shifting sands bleaching the bones of men who dared challenge its right to remain a burning wasteland, to city of green supporting the well-being of the sons of its conquerors, is told in *Yuma From Hell-Hole to Haven* by Katherine Long and Samuel Siciliano. Beginning with the trek of Father Francisco Kino to what is now Yuma County, the authors relate many significant and revealing tales of the founding, development and growth of the southwestern-most county in Arizona. Vividly told in the language of the men who first related them are stories of exploration, pioneering, Indian fighting, gun fights, gambling and gold strikes. Published, 1950, by Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, Yuma, Arizona. 63 pp. Paper cover. 50c.

## LIFE ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER IS PRESENTED IN VIVID DETAIL IN FRONTIER FIGHTER . . .

Story of the Lincoln County War by a man who rode with Billy the Kid. This autobiography by George W. Coe brings to light much new information about one of the West's most controversial outlaws. Here is a new version of the feud between McSween and the Murphy-Dolan faction, the killing of Sheriff Brady, the battle at the McSween house, Billy the Kid's capture, trial, escape, and finally his death at the hands of his former friend, Sheriff Pat Garrett . . . \$3.50

## TOMBSTONE EPITAPH . . .

Many stories have been written about Tombstone—the "town too tough to die." None of them tell the tale of this wild silver camp of the last century as completely as it is presented in this day by day record taken from Tombstone's historic newspaper. Much of the detail in this new book came from files of the Epitaph which were thought to have been lost . . . \$4.50

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PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



By RANDALL HENDERSON

**7** HIS IS *Desert's* 14th birthday—and the little surprise we have been saving for our readers on this occasion is the new four-color cover on this issue, printed on heavier cover paper. We will be having many more of these desert-in-full-color pictures on the front of *Desert* in the months ahead.

Many of our readers will recognize the picture as Delicate Arch in the Arches National Monument in Utah. It is one of the most amazing rock formations in the West. Delicate Arch, to me, is symbolic of the beauty, the simplicity, the strength and the mystery of the great desert land.

In 1948 a new road was completed to the Arch, and Dick and Catherine Freeman wrote a story about it for the August issue of *Desert* that year. The Arch is 65 feet high, 115 feet wide, and the buttresses, at their base, are 15 feet in diameter.

The four-color plates were made by the Kater Engraving Company in Los Angeles from a 4x5 Kodachrome transparency taken by one of the West's ace photographers—Joe Muench of Santa Barbara. The printing was done on *Desert's* own presses at Palm Desert. *Desert's* staff is looking for more such pictures for future covers.

\* \* \*

This month's badge of shame should be pinned on the Los Angeles daily newspaper columnist who recently gave his sportsmen readers advice as to where to go to hunt and kill wild burros. He assures them that "young burros are fine eating."

Surprisingly, the wildlife instinct in the burro remains strong, despite all the centuries that he has been a domesticated animal. One generation after he returns to the wild he becomes more difficult to stalk and kill than a mountain sheep. A wild sheep, like an antelope, often brings about his own undoing by a certain curiosity he has, regarding the human species.

The burro, during many generations of domestic duties as a servant of man, apparently learned all he wanted to know about the species *homo sapiens*. And when he returns to the freedom of the range he becomes the wariest of animals. I have no prejudice against re-capturing these animals for return to domestic duty—but I think it is poor sportsmanship to kill them.

Reading Edmund Jaeger's latest book, *Our Desert Neighbors*, I came across this passage: It is a wrong-headed attitude to assume that only man has rights; the wild animals have some too."

\* \* \*

Last year a U. S. Court of Claims decided that Ute Indians in Utah and Colorado were entitled to \$31,000,000 as reimbursement for lands of which they had been deprived. Recently Congress passed a bill authorizing payment of the thirty-one million to the 2800 Indians in the five Ute bands involved.

I have been curious to know what the Utes would do with all that money. Divided among them it would have amounted to over \$10,000 for each man, woman and child.

The answer to my question came in the form of a news release this week. The tribal council of three of the bands voted to disburse \$1,000 in cash to each member, and to place the balance in reserve funds for the benefit of the tribe as a whole—for loans, reacquisition of lands, education and conservation of wildlife.

In a day when it requires more than \$2000 to buy a new car with the extras, and from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to own a modest home I think those Indians are to be commended for their vision and unselfishness. I wonder what decision you and I would make if we could obtain a \$10,000 jackpot for the asking.

\* \* \*

Here at Palm Desert we are close to the Santa Rosa Mountains where a million and a half acres of precipitous brush and tree-covered desert terrain remain inaccessible to all but the hardest of hikers. Occasionally the coyotes come down on our bajada at night and give us a serenade, and it is only a short hike from the end of the jeep road in Deep Canyon to where the spoor of mountain sheep may be seen.

The oppression of the ever-increasing regimentation which our civilized order is forcing upon us becomes more bearable when one lives close to the world of Nature. As we humans struggle for survival against the undisciplined motor driver, the tax collector, the business competitor, and the growing army of governmental inspectors, I think we acquire a sub-conscious envy of those denizens of the wild which still roam the forested hills unhampered by a thousand rules and regulations.

But I guess we wouldn't want to trade places with them at that. For we have one very important resource which they lack. They are forever bound to the environment in which they live, without the power to change it appreciably. We humans have the opportunity to create a much better world for ourselves—a world in which faith and hope and charity will take the place of selfishness and intolerance and hate.